



THE  
OXFORD  
WAR ATLAS

1939-1942

*INDIAN EDITION*

BY

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AND

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## PREFACE

THIS Atlas is a record in maps of the events of the first three years of the war up to the beginning of September, 1942, and a reference atlas for the main theatres of war. It also includes a number of general maps and diagrams dealing with the economic, political and strategical background of different countries or parts of the world.

The Indian edition is based on the first English edition, covering the first two years, and maps illustrating the main events of the third year have been added. Special attention has been paid to the war in the Far East and India's position in the following new or amended maps: Japan (42), The Strategy of the Indian Ocean (44), War in the Pacific (45), The War in China (46), Manchuria and the U.S.S.R. (47), Offensive in the Far East (48), The Campaign in the Philippines (49), The Campaign in Malaya (50), The Campaign in Burma (51), The Resources of India (52). Other new maps are: The Russian fronts 1941-2 (40, 58) and the Libyan and Egyptian fronts (60, 61). Maps 35 and 36 are reprinted from Mr J. H. Stembridge's *An Atlas of the U.S.S.R.* The text throughout has been revised and brought up to date.

The maps and text have been compiled from numerous official and authoritative sources.

December 1942

J. H. S.

R. V. L.

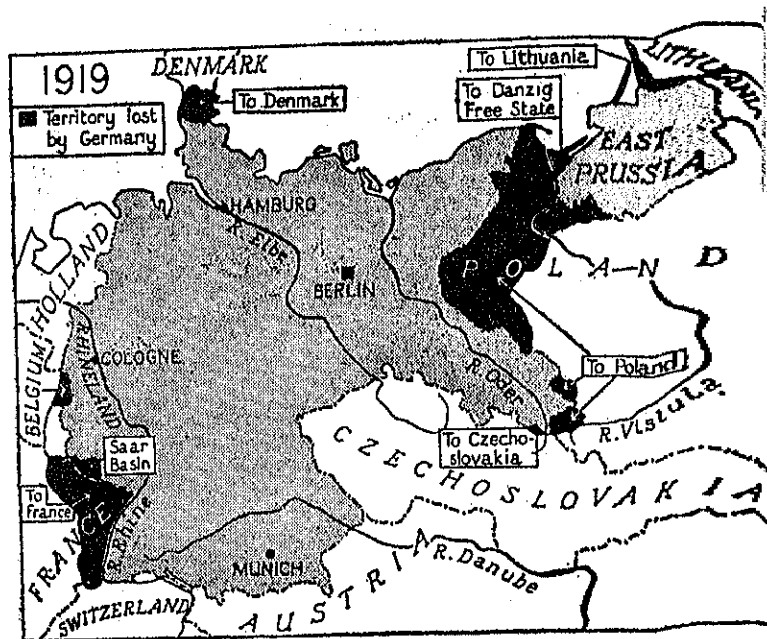
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- MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS



1. GERMANY, 1919

## 1. GERMANY, 1919

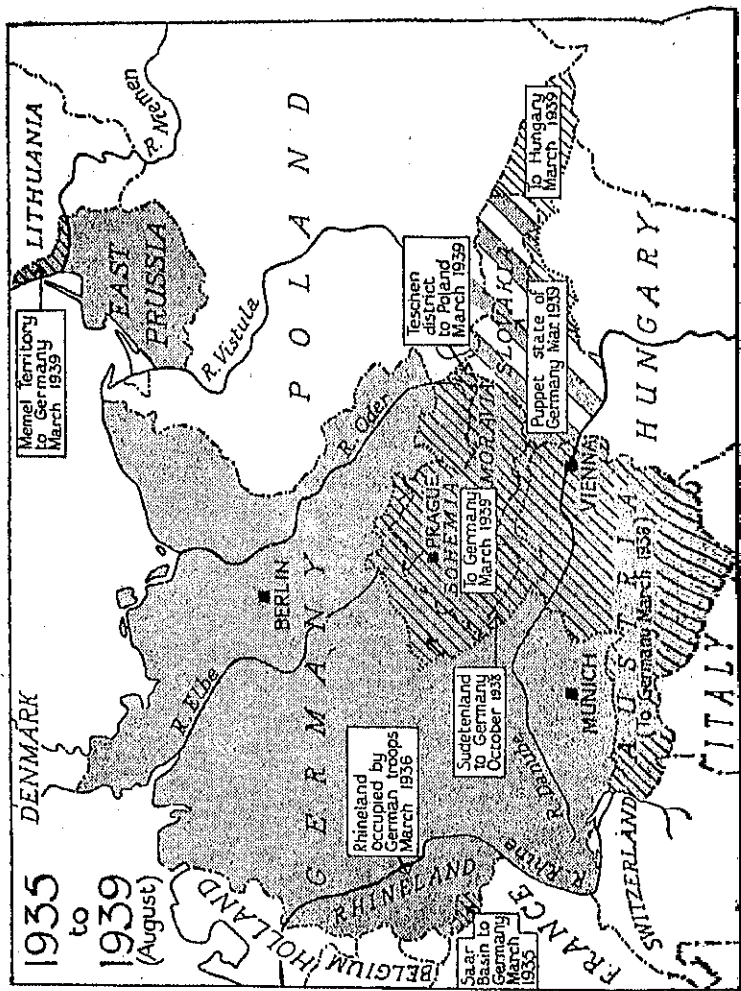
By the Treaty of Versailles, Germany lost 27,000 square miles of territory in Europe, with a population of some 6½ millions. She agreed to the following arrangements:

1. Alsace-Lorraine to be ceded to France;
2. The Saar Basin to be governed by the League of Nations until 1935, its future to be decided by a plebiscite. (By the plebiscite, held on 1 March, 1935, the Saar Basin was returned to Germany.)
3. Eupen and Malmédy to Belgium;
4. Part of Schleswig-Holstein to Denmark;
5. Part of Upper Silesia and East Prussia to Poland, and a small portion of Upper Silesia (120 square miles) to Czechoslovakia;
6. Danzig to be a Free City under the League of Nations;
7. The Rhineland to be demilitarized;
8. Memel to be transferred to the League of Nations. (In 1923 Lithuania annexed Memel.)

In addition Germany forfeited all her colonial possessions, whose area exceeded 1,000,000 square miles and whose population was 12,000,000. Administered by the victorious powers under mandates from the League of Nations, they comprised:—

*In Africa* (see map 23).—South-west Africa, German East Africa (now Tanganyika), the Cameroons, and Togoland;

*In the Pacific* (see map 45).—The Ladrone or Marianne Islands, the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands, which were transferred to Japan; and the following islands south of the equator, namely, the Bismarck Archipelago, the (German) Solomon Islands, and part of New Guinea ceded to Australia; Samoa to New Zealand; and Nauru (an islet just south of the equator with valuable phosphate deposits) to the British Empire.



GERMANY—TERRITORIAL GAINS, 1935 TO AUGUST, 1939

## 2. GERMANY—TERRITORIAL GAINS, 1935 TO AUGUST, 1939

THE map shows Germany's territorial gains between 1935 and August, 1939. The chief events leading up to them, or connected with them, were as follows:

1935.—In March the Saar Basin was returned to Germany as the result of a plebiscite. In the same month Germany introduced military conscription.

1936.—German troops occupied the demilitarized Rhineland.

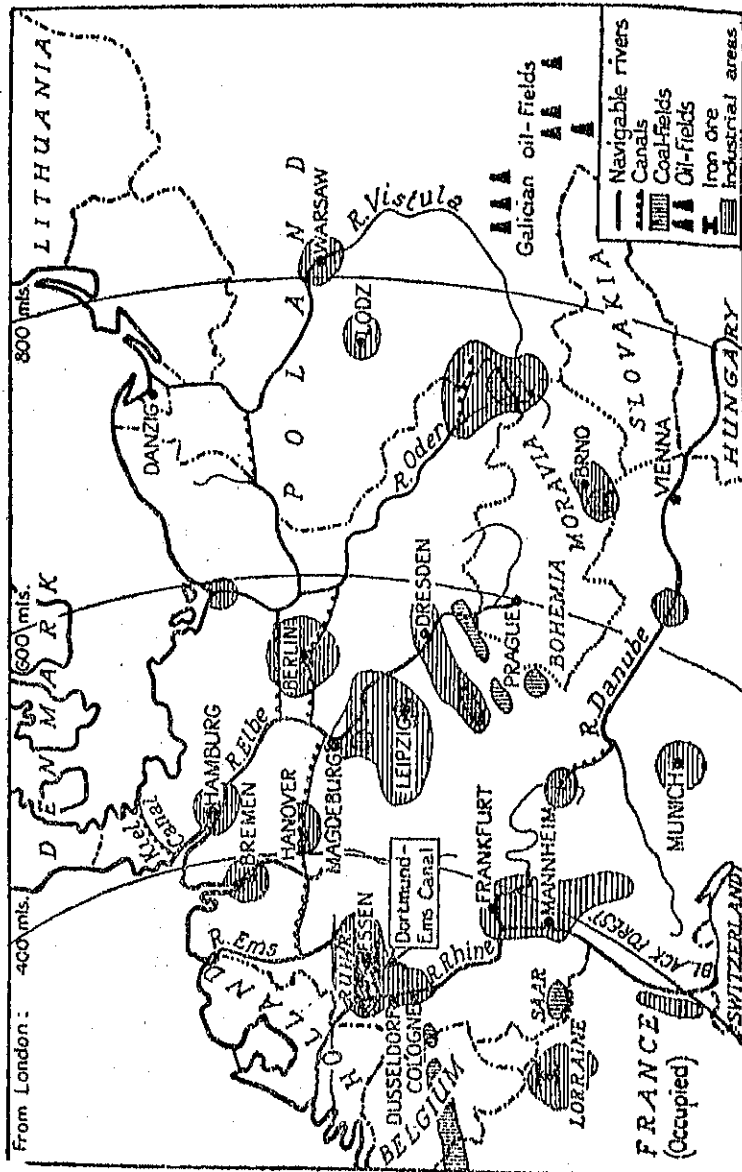
1938.—In March Germany annexed Austria.

In October, as a result of the Four Power Conference (Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy) held at Munich on 29 September, Germany

occupied the Sudeten districts of Czechoslovakia.

1939.—In March Germany occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia. Bohemia and Moravia became a Protectorate of the Reich; Slovakia was made a nominally independent republic; Ruthenia was invaded and annexed by Hungary; and the Teschen industrial area was transferred to Poland.

Meanwhile, yielding to an ultimatum, Lithuania surrendered (in March) the port of Memel and the adjacent Memel Territory to Germany, and so lost her only seaport and outlet to the Baltic.



GERMAN CIVILIAN AT WAR

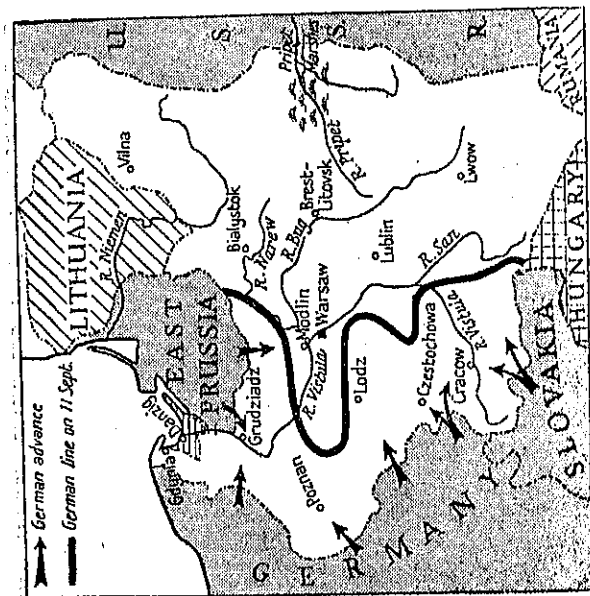
### 3. GERMANY—SINEWS OF WAR

APART from coal, which yields an export surplus, Germany is deficient in most strategical materials. Her output of iron ore is only sufficient for from 25 to 35 per cent of her peace-time needs. Half her imports come from Sweden, and, since the fall of France, she has controlled the iron ores of Lorraine. The Ruhr produces more than 70 per cent of Germany's hard coal (used in the manufacture of steel), an amount equivalent to about 40 per cent of the output of all German-occupied countries. The Ruhr also produces 70 per cent of the coke, 70 per cent of the steel, a large proportion of the synthetic oil, and 40 per cent of the electricity used in the Reich.

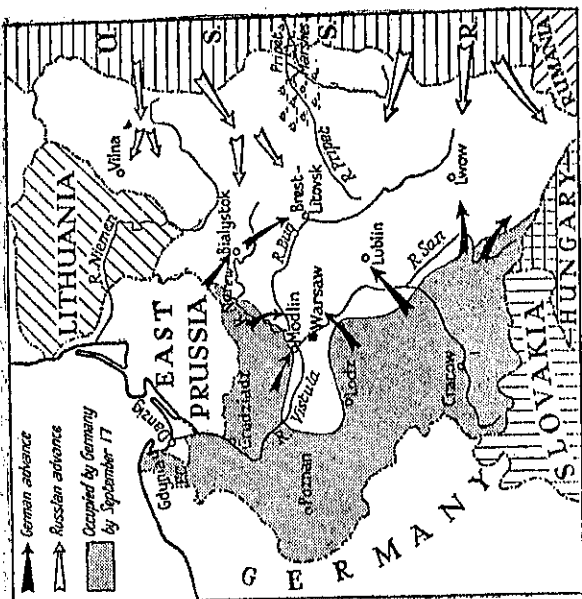
Continental Europe provides Germany with a certain amount of copper, and as much bauxite as she needs for manufacturing aluminium. Of materials used to harden steel, Germany produces manganese, but lacks chrome, and nickel (used in the manufacture of nickel-steel for armour plate) which she formerly obtained from Canada. Germany manufactures one-third

of her petroleum from coal and depends on imports for the balance (see map 67). As the amount of *buna* (synthetic rubber) manufactured in the Reich only suffices for 10 per cent of her normal needs, it cannot compensate for the loss of rubber imported from British Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. Supplies of cotton, obtained from Russia before the invasion of that country, were quite inadequate to replace imports from the U.S.A., Egypt and India.

Since the British air offensive began many of the lighter war industries have been moved from western Germany to less vulnerable areas. But the heavy iron and steel industries of the Ruhr remain within relatively easy reach of British bombers. Germany makes full use of her navigable rivers and canals, which, except when they are frozen in winter, do much to relieve the war-time congestion on the railways. Hence the value of bombing such waterways as the Dortmund-Ems Canal, a vital link between western and eastern Germany, and the strategic Kiel Canal.



(i) September 1st to 11th



(ii) September 11th onwards

#### 4. THE INVASION OF POLAND, 1939

#### 4 THE INVASION OF POLAND, 1939

##### FIRST PHASE—1-11 September

APART from a narrow strip of seaboard, the only well marked geographical frontier of pre-war Poland was the Carpathians. On the west the one formidable barrier was the Pripet Marshes, on the east and north there were no natural defences. The Poles hoped that the autumn rains would render the roads impassable for tanks and even for light mechanized units. But the rains failed, and when on 1 September the Germans invaded Poland they were able to use tanks, while their light mechanized forces succeeded in pushing forward well in advance of the main body. Towns, air-ports, and communications were subjected to aerial bombardment by the invaders.

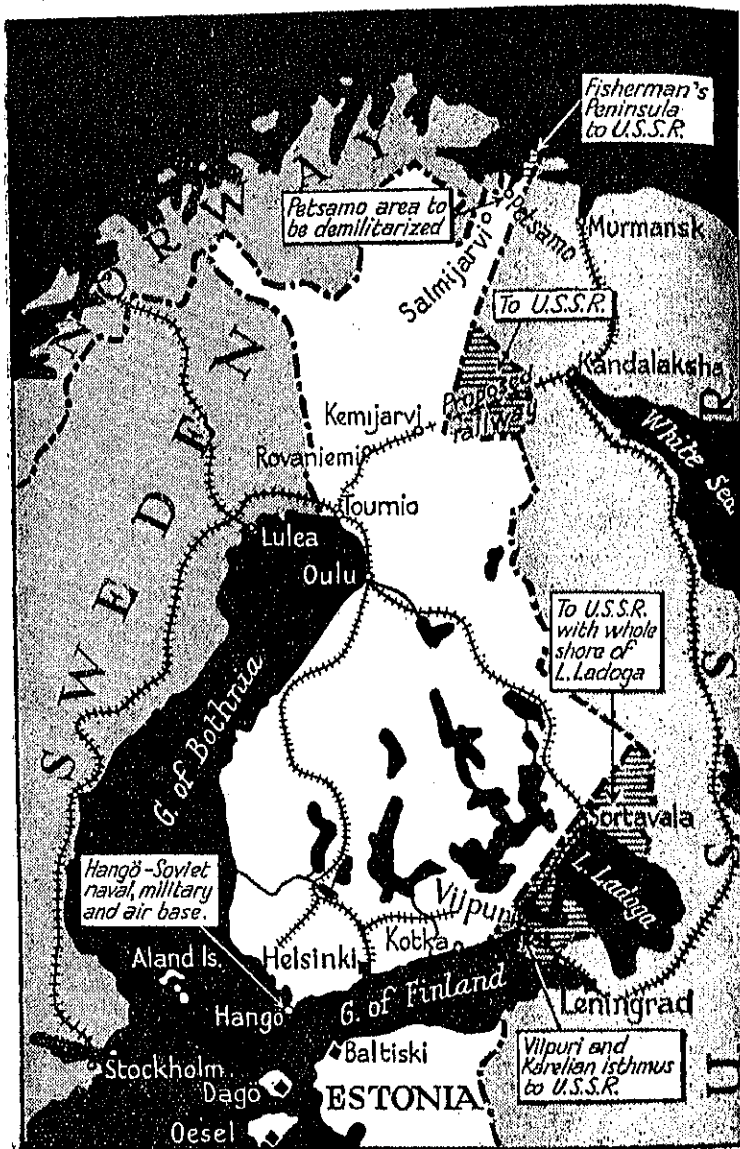
Map (i) shows that the principal lines of attack were (1) from East Prussia and Pomerania towards the base of the Polish Corridor; (2) from East Prussia south in the direction of Warsaw; (3) from Pomerania towards Poznan; (4) towards Lodz; (5) from German Silesia, where a dual thrust was aimed at the Silesian industrial areas; and (6) from Slovakia towards Cracow.

Within ten days the Germans had occupied the greater part of western Poland and had cut off Poland from the sea.

*SECOND PHASE—from 12 September*  
In the second phase of the campaign the Polish forces were steadily driven back. The Germans began to encircle Warsaw, approaching it (1) from the north, and (2), having crossed the Vistula, from the south.

On the eve of the Russian invasion (17 September) the Germans held the area shown by shading on map (ii), and were advancing towards Bialystok, Brest-Litovsk, Lublin, and Lwow. On the 18th the Germans and Russians met at Brest-Litovsk. The Russians occupied the Polish side of the Rumanian frontier, and, by agreement with the Germans, advanced west to a line running along the rivers San, Vistula and Narew to the frontier of East Prussia.

Warsaw held out until 27 September and the fortress of Modlin until the 28th when a treaty was signed between the U.S.S.R. and Germany for the fourth partition of Poland.



5. THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF FINLAND

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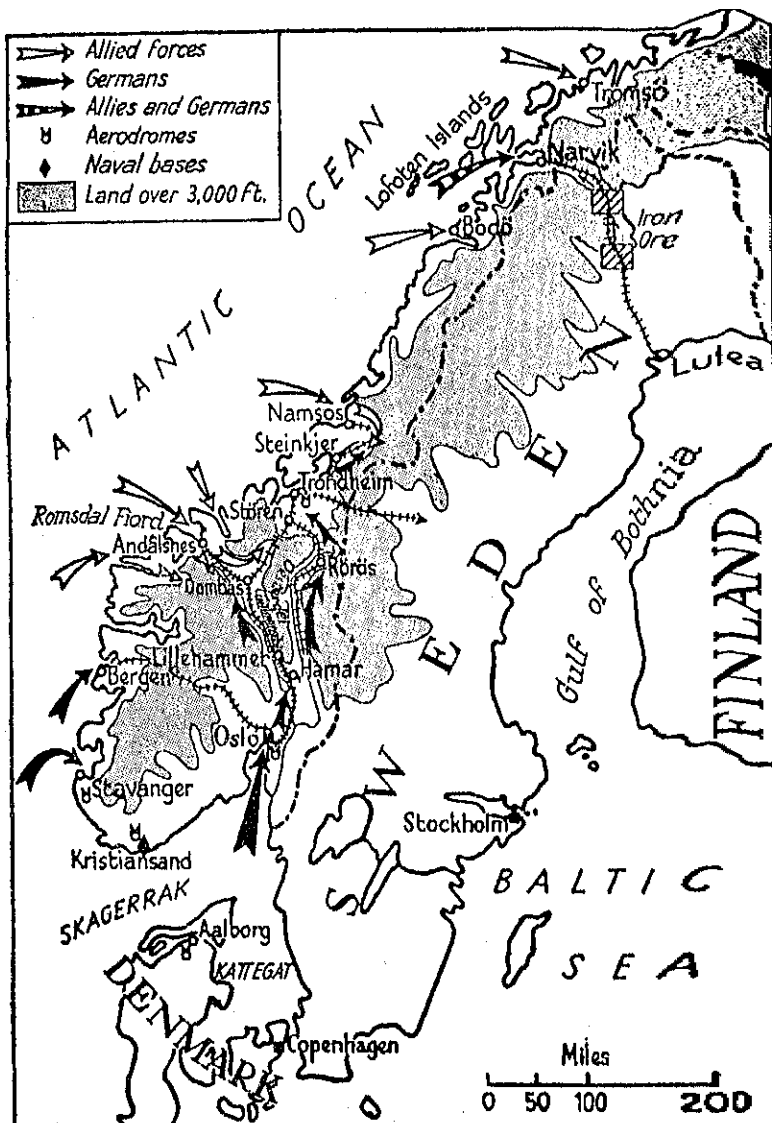
FAILING to obtain from Finland concessions similar to those granted to her by the Baltic republics (see map 37) Russia invaded that country on 30 November, 1939.

The Russians attacked the Mannerheim Line across the Karelian isthmus and, unable to break through, attempted to turn it north of Lake Ladoga. They also made two thrusts across the narrow waistline of Finland in the direction of the Gulf of Bothnia, captured Petsamo on the northern front and advanced towards the nickel mines of Salmijarvi.

Only in February could the Russians overcome the Mannerheim Line and, after the fall of Viipuri, fighting ceased on 13 March, 1940.

By the *Treaty of Moscow* Finland lost 16,173 square miles of territory, an area approximately equal to one-third of England. In the south, Russia acquired the densely populated Karelian isthmus, including the Mannerheim zone and Viipuri, and the shores of Lake Ladoga with the Viipuri-Sortavala railway. The U.S.S.R. also leased for 30 years the Hangö peninsula as a naval and air base. The Åland Islands remained Finnish. The map shows that the effect of annexing the northern area was to push Finland's frontiers further back from the Murmansk railway. It was agreed to build a railway from Kandalaksha, at the head of the White Sea gulf, to Kemijarvi, which would have given Russia rail communication with Sweden. Petsamo was demilitarized and the Fisherman's Peninsula ceded to Russia.

The object of the Finnish campaign was to make Russia's northern borders secure, especially to remove the danger of attacks on Leningrad and the Murmansk railway. The U.S.S.R. did not trust her ally Germany and prepared for eventualities.



6. THE NORWEGIAN CAMPAIGN

## 6. THE NORWEGIAN CAMPAIGN

On 9 April, 1940, the Germans invaded Denmark and Norway. The Norwegian Government refused to submit to a German occupation of their country; the Danes acquiesced under protest.

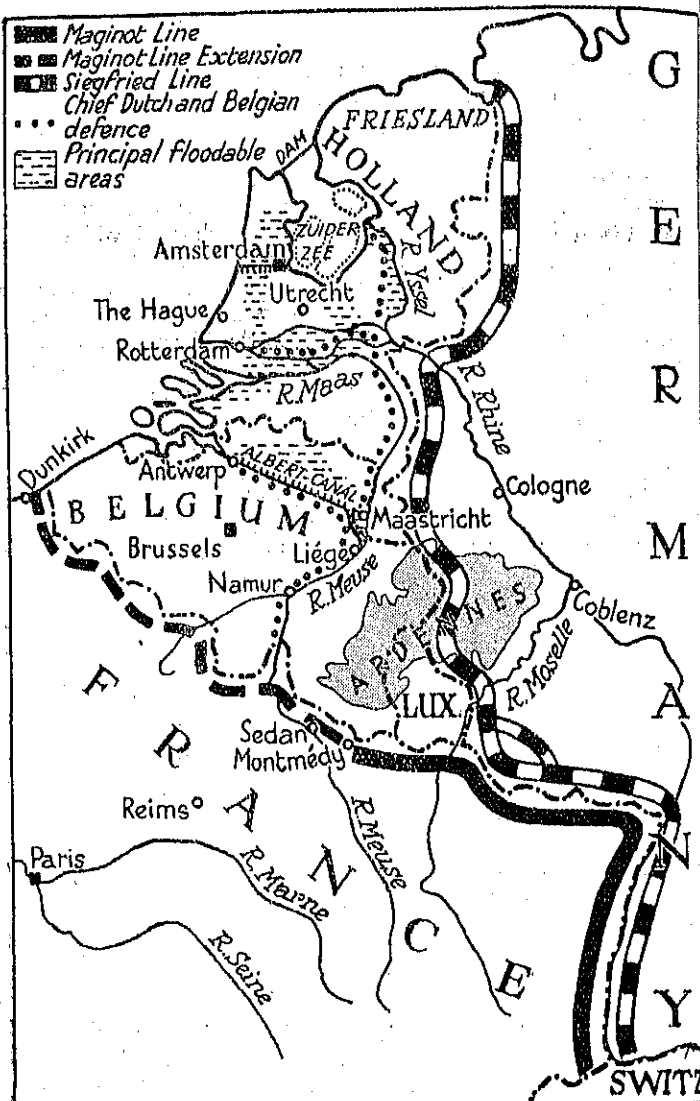
Norway is mainly a mountain plateau cut by valleys and indented by fjords. Between the rugged west coast and the precipitous island-fringe runs the channel which is used by ships carrying Swedish iron ore from Narvik to Germany. Railways and roads, radiating from Oslo, follow the valleys, but there is no road or rail connexion between Trondheim and Narvik. In the Norwegian campaign the mountainous terrain prevented the use of large bodies of troops, and prohibited the allies from constructing landing grounds for aircraft.

By their occupation of Narvik, Trondheim, Bergen, Stavanger, and Oslo, the Germans obtained possession of the chief ports and all the air bases in Norway. Hence the allies were (1) forced to land troops at fishing villages, furnished only with jetties and having no proper facilities for disembarking bodies of men and munitions; and (2) obliged to operate from air bases in England, a return journey of at least 800 miles.

German forces advanced from Oslo to Hamar and thence (1) up the Oesterdal towards Rörös, and (2) up the Gudbrandsdal towards Lillehammer and Dombas.

Allied troops, whose objective was Trondheim, landed (1) at Namsos, advancing south to Steinkjer, and (2) at Andalsnes, and other points in the Romsdal Fiord area, whence they thrust north-east to Stören. Contingents from Andalsnes also marched south-east, captured Dombas, and proceeded down the Gudbrandsdal to Lillehammer. But, faced by German troops, superior in numbers, equipment and air power, they were obliged to withdraw, and were evacuated from central Norway on 30 April.

On the northern front the allies landed at Tromsø and Bodø, and British warships forced the Germans out of Narvik Fiord. The latter, however, held the town of Narvik until 29 May, when it was captured by the allies, who remained there until they evacuated northern Norway on 10 June.



7. THE WESTERN FRONT

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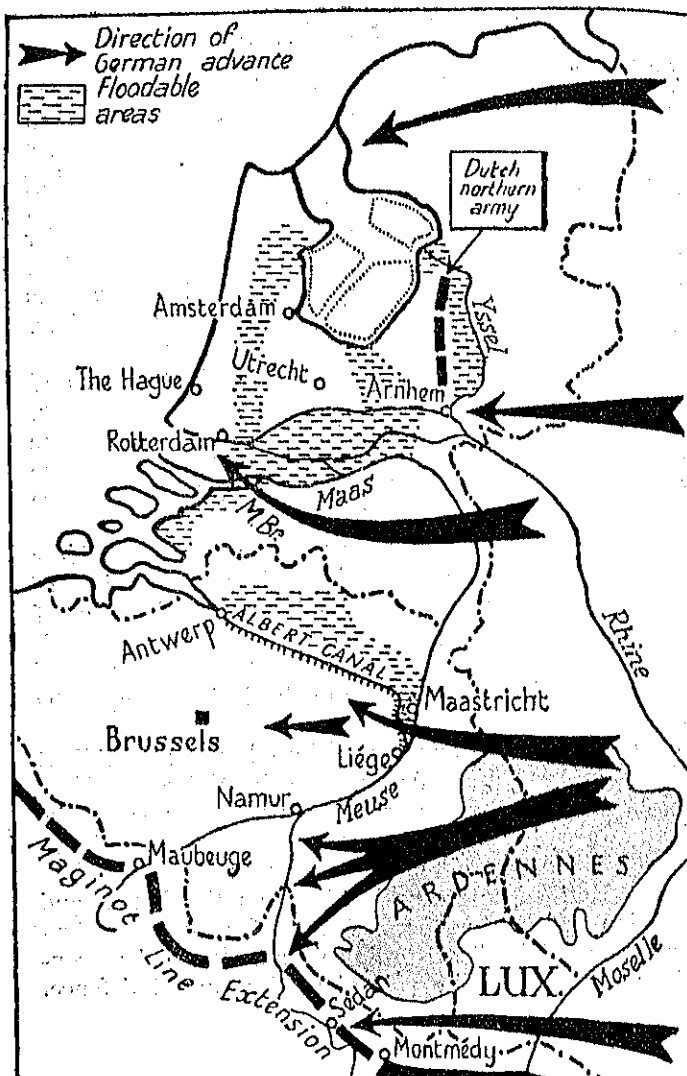
As in the first Great War, the western front stretched from the North Sea to Switzerland. The German frontier was protected by the Siegfried Line, or West Wall, the French by the Maginot Line, both being defensive belts of some depth and enormous strength. The Maginot Line proper ran from the Swiss frontier to Montmédy, beyond which the so-called Maginot Extension, along the Franco-Belgian frontier, was merely a deep belt defended by isolated strong points, blockhouses and tank traps.

In view of the strength of the Maginot Line, and the fact that the plain of Holland and Belgium presented fewer obstacles to an invader than the country farther south, it seemed probable from the outset that Germany might attempt to invade France through the Low Countries.

The main Dutch defences were: (1) the rivers Yssel and Maas (Meuse), behind which a line of concrete 'pill-boxes' extended to the fortress of Maastricht; and (2) belts of land capable of flooding, the chief being the Grebbe Waterline, east of Utrecht, which extended from the Zuider Zee to the mouth of the Maas.

The Belgian defences were based on (1) the Albert Canal running from Antwerp to the Meuse at Liège, the land north of the canal being floodable; (2) the Meuse, and (3) the Ardennes, where the mountainous terrain favoured defensive operations.

But lack of co-ordination between the Dutch and Belgian defence systems, and the fact that the Governments of Holland and Belgium declined to consider British and French plans for mutual defence, had fatal results.



8. THE INVASION OF HOLLAND, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG

## 8. THE INVASION OF HOLLAND, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG

ON 10 May, 1940, the Germans invaded Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg. Their mechanized forces were supported by dive-bombers and parachute troops. Open towns were bombed, and civilians fleeing along the roads were machine-gunned.

### *HOLLAND*

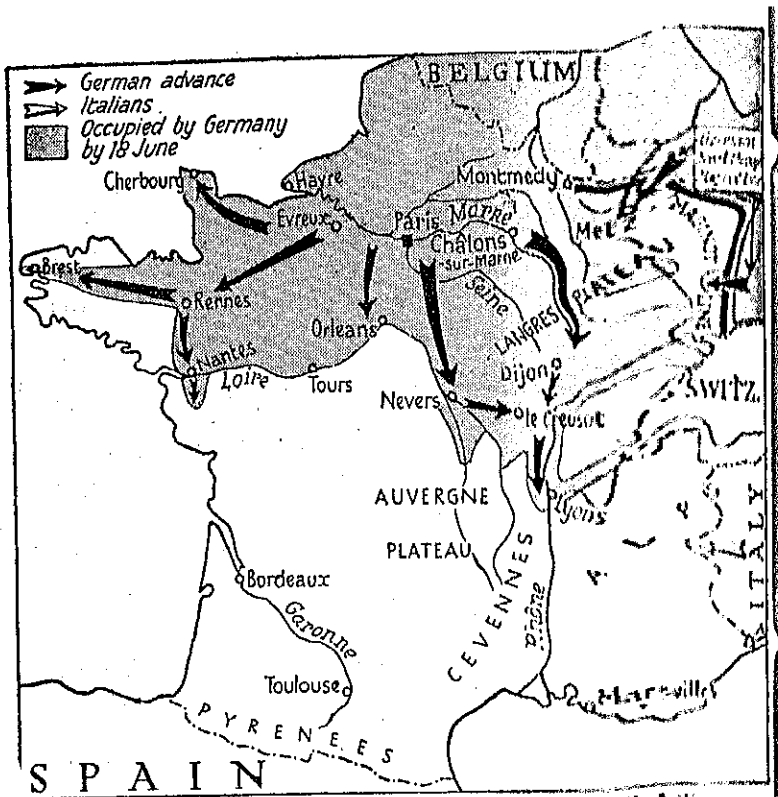
While the Germans crossed the frontier, parachute troops landed behind the Dutch lines where, aided by 'fifth-columnists', they seized aerodromes and disorganized communications.

The Germans overran the north-eastern provinces, which had always been considered indefensible. The Dutch northern army meanwhile retired behind the Yssel, where their positions were soon rendered untenable by the capture of the bridge-head at Arnhem. Other German units, advancing south across the Maas, crossed the Moerdijk Bridge (M.Br. on map), and by outflanking the Dutch waterline defences, had the area north of the Maas at their mercy. After being subjected to intense aerial bombardment, Rotterdam was captured and, to save other cities from destruction, the Dutch capitulated within five days of the opening of hostilities.

### *BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG*

Crossing the Maas (Meuse) the Germans captured the Dutch fortress of Maastricht; and the Belgian fortress Eben Emael, which guarded the junction of the Meuse and the Albert Canal. Having outflanked the canal, some units advanced west: others captured Liège, and proceeded down the north bank of the Meuse to Namur.

But the main German advance was over the Ardennes, through the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Belgian province of Luxemburg. These forces crossed the Meuse at three points between Namur and Sedan, and also captured Montmédy, the pivot of the Maginot Line and the Maginot Extension.



II. THE BATTLE OF FRANCE—DEFEAT

## II. THE BATTLE OF FRANCE—DEFEAT

The fall of Paris saw the French armies disorganized and in full retreat, and before long the Germans, repeating tactics that had been so successful in Poland and the Low Countries, succeeded in breaking up their opponents into isolated groups.

The enemy now occupied the Channel coast from Havre north-eastward. From Evreux (on the main road and railway from Paris to Cherbourg) he pressed west to Cherbourg, south-west to Rennes and thence (1) west to Brest, and (2) south to Nantes, at the mouth of the Loire.

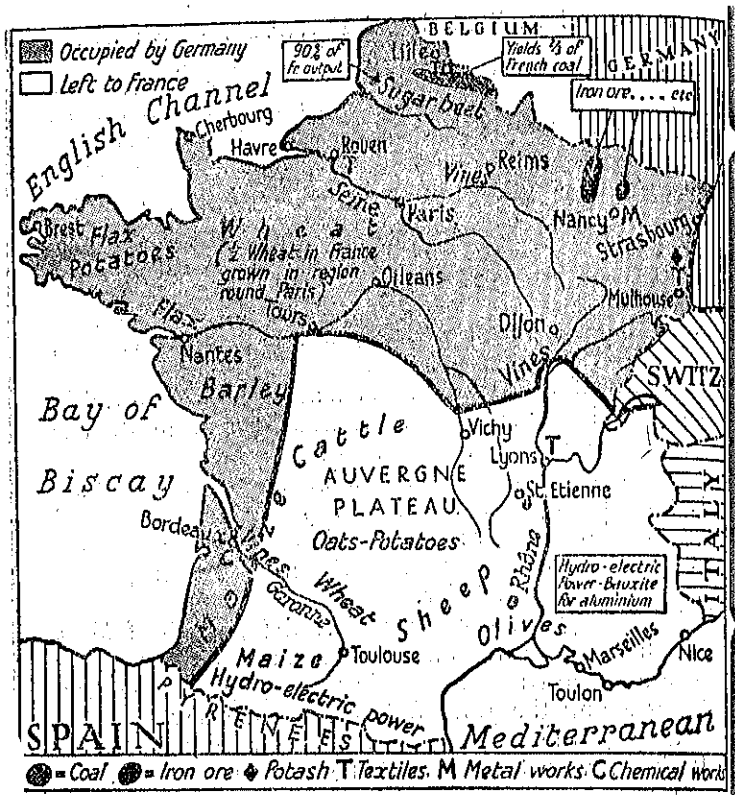
South of Paris the Germans advanced to the Loire, whence they hastened on towards Nevers, and thence east to le Creusot, the munition centre.

Farther east mechanized units swept from Châlons-sur-Marne up the Marne valley to Chaumont, and across the Langres Plateau into the Rhone-Saône valley, where they reached Dijon, and later Lyons, and the Swiss frontier.

The Maginot Line was pierced (1) north of Metz which was captured on the 18th, and (2) in the south, where Belfort, commanding the gap between the Vosges and the Jura, fell on the same day.

Along the Alps the French were facing the Italians, who had entered the war on 10 June.

Meanwhile, 84-year-old Marshal Pétain, now Premier of France, asked the Germans for an armistice. Hostilities ceased on 22 June, after negotiations had been concluded with Italy.



12. THE BATTLE OF FRANCE—ARMISTICE

## 12. THE BATTLE OF FRANCE—ARMISTICE

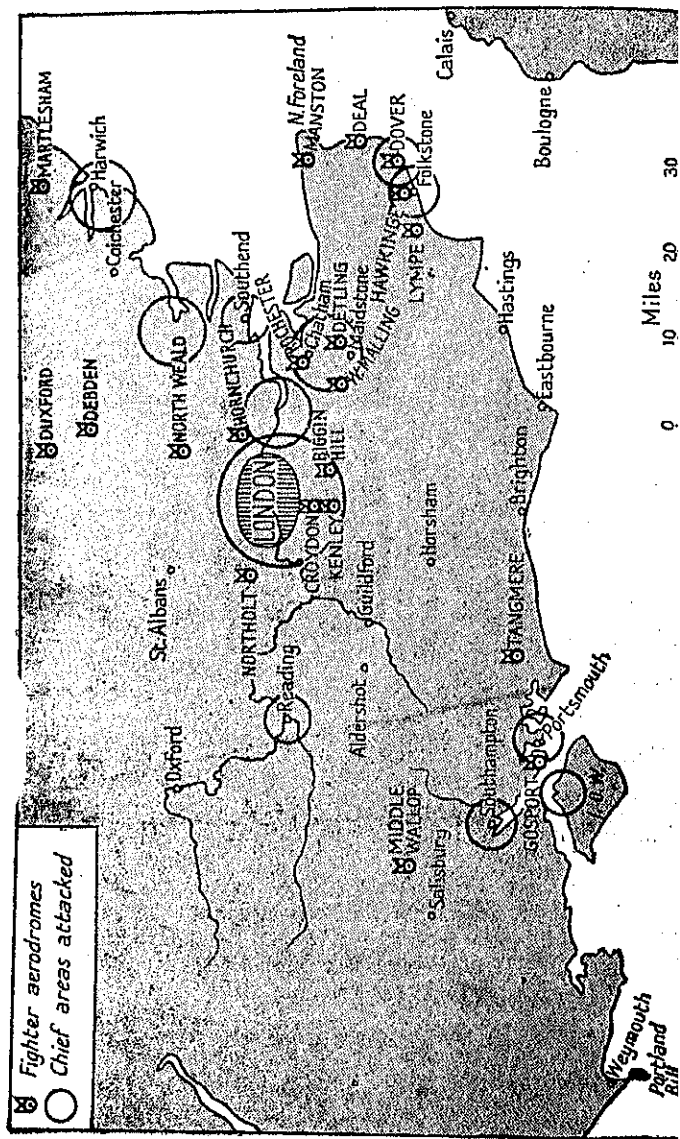
*By the armistice with Germany:*

1. The Germans occupied the whole of France north of a line from Tours to Geneva, and west of a line from Tours to the Spanish frontier (see map).
2. The French forces were demobilized and disarmed. All munitions were surrendered.
3. All German prisoners of war were released. (These included some 400 German pilots, mostly captured by the R.A.F., who were thus freed to take part in raids on Britain.)
4. The French fleet was to be recalled to French territory, where it was to be disarmed and interned under German and Italian supervision.

*The Italian terms stipulated that:*

1. Demilitarized zones, varying in width from 30 to 120 miles, were to be established along the Franco-Italian frontiers in France, Tunisia, Algeria, and French Somaliland.
2. The Mediterranean naval bases of Toulon, Ajaccio (Corsica), Oran and Bizerta (Algeria) were to be demilitarized.
3. French airports were to be placed under German and Italian control.

German-occupied France comprised the chief agricultural and the principal industrial areas in the country. On the other hand, much of unoccupied France consisted of mountainous land unsuited to cultivation. There are, however, in the French Alpine region, important aluminium works, using hydro-electric power and local bauxite. Marseilles, the leading port in France, Lyons, the world's chief silk manufacturing town, Nice, and Toulon were the most important cities in unoccupied territory. Vichy became the seat of the Government.



*August to October, 1940*

AFTER the fall of France the Germans prepared to invade Britain. But before they could land troops it was essential for them: (1) to destroy coastal convoys bringing supplies, (2) to sink or cripple naval units defending Britain, and (3) to secure mastery of the air. From mid-June until early August the Germans carried out daylight raids, whose purpose was to test British defences. These raids prepared the way for the aerial *blitzkrieg*, which consisted of four phases.

1. From 8 to 18 August, waves of long-range bombers, escorted by fighters, made daylight raids against (1) ports from North Foreland to Portland (see map), (2) merchant convoys, and (3) fighter aerodromes. 697 German aeroplanes were destroyed, compared with 153 British.

2. From 19 August until 5 September daylight bombing continued against ports, but the brunt of the attack was directed against inland aerodromes and aircraft factories. This phase cost the Germans 562 planes while the defenders lost 219.

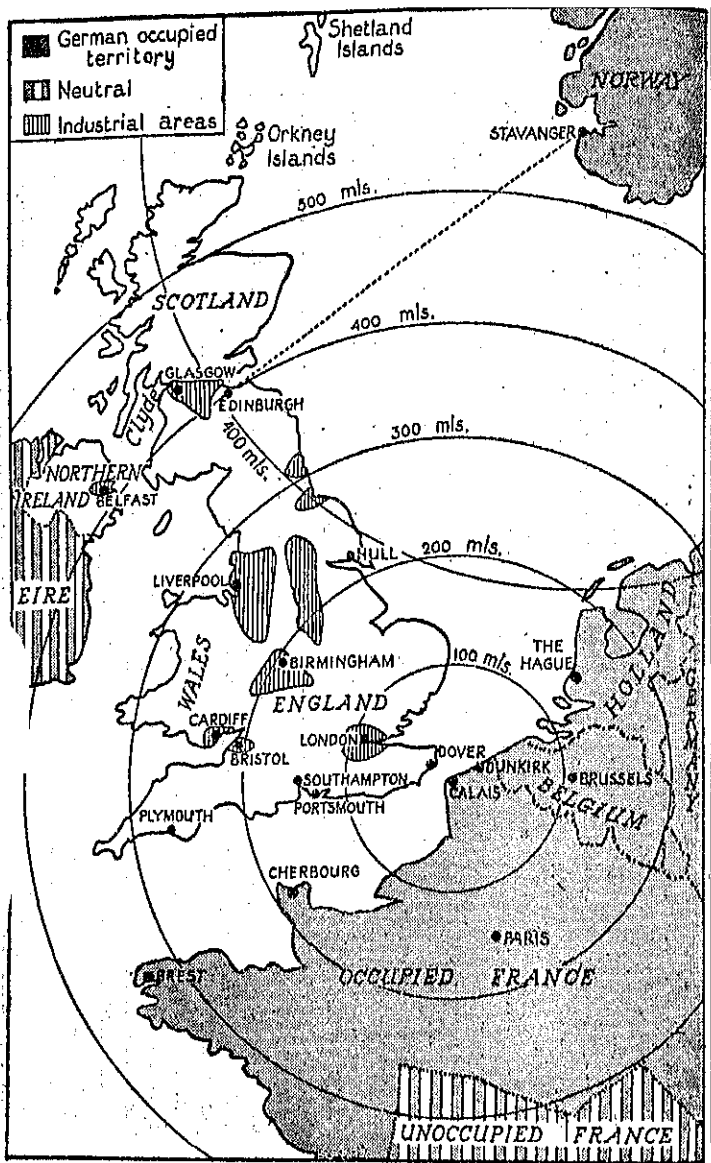
3. In the third phase (6 September to 5 October) attacks were concentrated on

London. This phase was characterized by daylight raids by bombers, with fighter escorts, and night attacks by single bombers operating at 25,000 to 30,000 feet. Much damage was done to docks, public buildings, and private houses.

4. From 6 to 31 October, London was again the main target of the Germans. But they changed their tactics, and instead of using long-range bombers, sent over waves of fighters and fighter-bombers, which operated mainly at night and flew at great heights. Bombing was more indiscriminate than previously, but the weight of bombs dropped was much less than in August and September.

Towards the end of October the battle began to die away. By 31 October it was over. Considerable damage had been done.

In London alone 1,700 persons, chiefly civilians, had lost their lives in daylight raids, and 12,581 in night raids, but at least 2,375 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Even more important was the fact that the Germans had been unable to land troops, and so had failed in their main objective—the invasion of Britain.



14. THE BRITISH-GERMAN AIR WAR, 1940-42

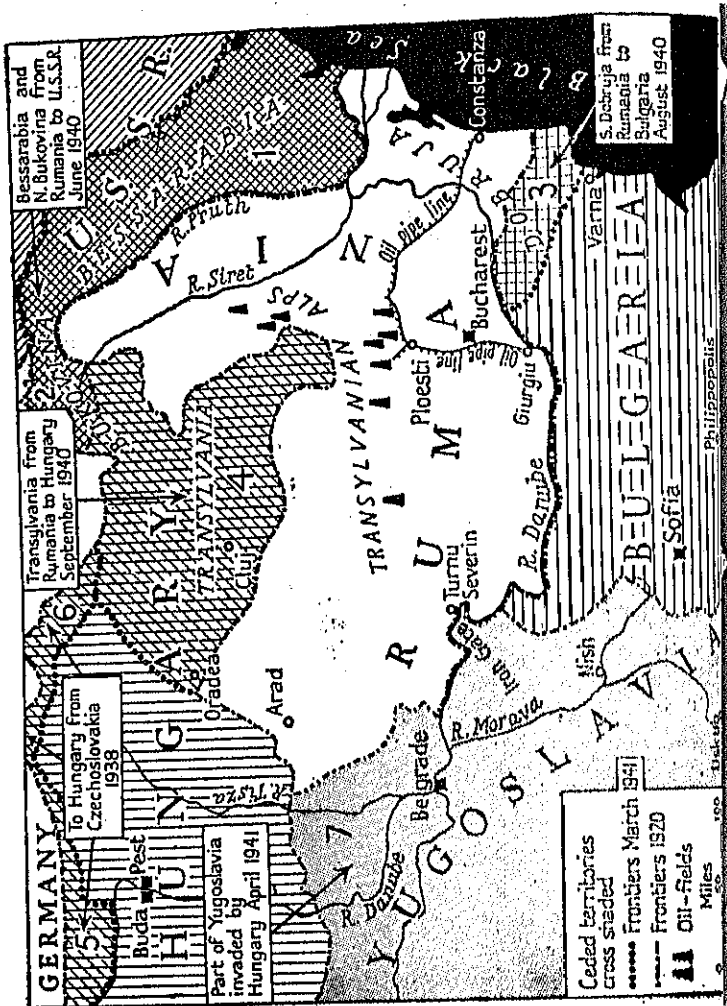
#### 14. THE BRITISH-GERMAN AIR WAR, 1940-42

The Battle of Britain marked the beginning of a strategical German air offensive against Britain, and a counter-offensive by Britain against Germany. The Germans had the advantage by reason of numerical superiority in aircraft, and their possession of the French coast of the English Channel. Practically all the industrial centres in the Midlands and South Wales lie within 200 miles of German-occupied air bases, but the Rhineland cities are at least 300 miles, and Berlin is about 600 miles, from British aerodromes.

The German bombers, operating mainly at night, made their heaviest attacks on ports and industrial areas, though there was much indiscriminate bombing, especially over south-east England. Southampton, Portsmouth, Plymouth, the Metropolitan area, the Midlands, notably the Birmingham and Coventry districts, South Wales, Liverpool and Merseyside, Clydeside, and Belfast all suffered severely. Up to July, 1942, 43,000 people had been killed in air raids. But the German attempt to disrupt Britain's war effort was a failure, and British fighters, anti-aircraft guns and barrage balloons all took an increasing toll of the enemy.

Meanwhile the growing power of the Royal Air Force enabled it to strike more and more at Germany's industrial nerve centres. Devastating raids on Düsseldorf, Lübeck, Bremen, Emden, Wilhelmshaven, Mannheim, Aachen, Kiel, Rostock, Hamburg, etc. reached a climax in the daylight raid over Augsburg (April, 1942) and the '1000-bomber' raids over Cologne and Essen in May and June, 1942. In the occupied countries, from the North Cape to the Bay of Biscay, German fortifications, communications and German-controlled industries were strafed continuously.

German attacks during 1942 were weak in number and frequency and did most damage in the 'Baedeker' reprisal raids on Bath, Exeter, Norwich, York and Canterbury (April-May, 1942). At least a third of Germany's fighter strength was engaged in the west and kept from the Russian front, as well as a considerable proportion of her bombers.

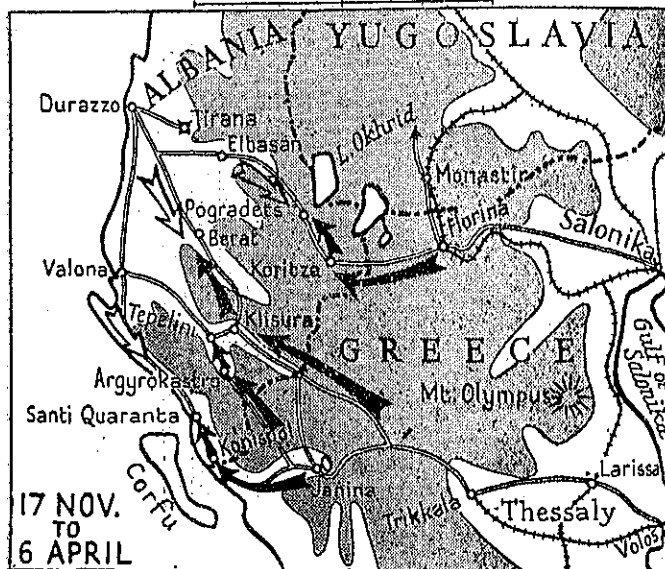
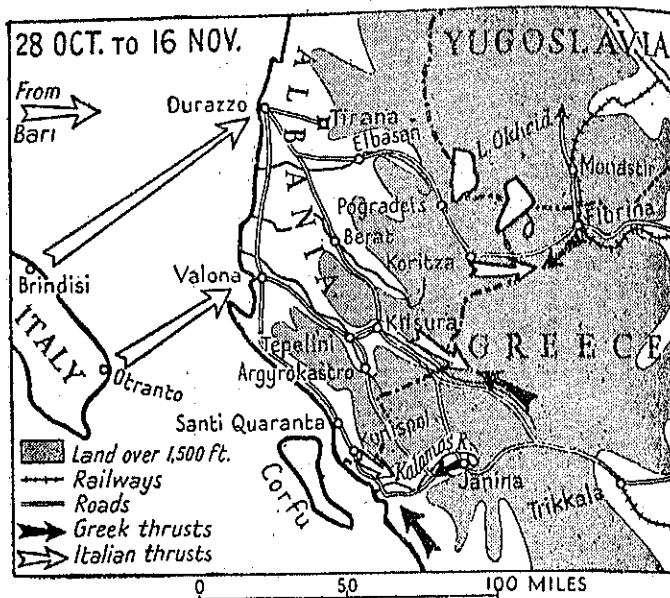


## 16. TERRITORIAL CHANGES IN THE BALKANS

THE map shows the territorial changes that took place in the Balkan area between 1938 and the middle of 1941. During this period Rumania lost practically all the lands she gained after the first Great War. She was forced to cede (1) Bessarabia and (2) northern Bukovina to the U.S.S.R.; (3) the southern part of the Dobruja to Bulgaria; and (4) Transylvania to Hungary. On the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia Hungary received as her share of the spoil the southern portion of

Slovakia (5 on map), and Ruthenia (6). In April, 1941, she invaded Yugoslavia (with whom she had signed a Pact of Friendship a month previously) and occupied the Danube-Tisa triangle (7 on map).

By obtaining virtual control of Hungary and Rumania in November, 1940, and of Bulgaria in March, 1941, the Germans were able to use these countries as a base from which to invade Greece and Yugoslavia.



17. THE ITALIAN INVASION OF GREECE

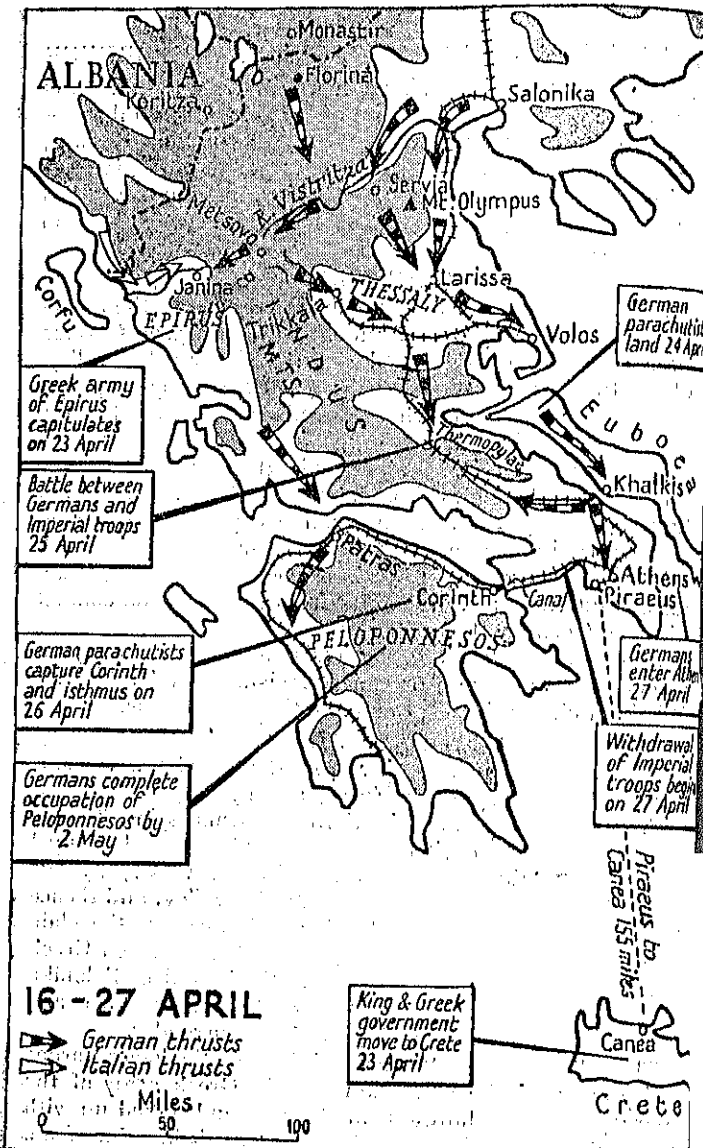
## 17. THE ITALIAN INVASION OF GREECE

THE Italian invasion of Greece was part of the Axis plan to gain control of the eastern Mediterranean and the Suez Canal, preparatory to extending the war into the Middle East.

The Italians, who expected an easy victory over the ill-equipped Greeks, crossed the Albanian frontier into Greece on 28 October, 1940. As will be seen by the map their main thrusts were (1) from Koritza towards Florina, on the route to Salonika, and (2) from Santi Quaranta southwards along the Adriatic coast, and up the Kalamas valley to Janina, whence a road ran through mountainous country to the plain of Thessaly. The Italians failed in their dual thrusts, and by mid-November the Greeks, supported by the Royal Air Force, took the offensive.

The second phase of the campaign (17 November to 6 April) saw the Italians driven back, and the Greeks advancing into Albania (1) across the Kalamas river and along the coast to the Italian supply base of Santi Quaranta; (2) from Janina, through Argyrokastro, and down the valley towards Tepelini, which the Italians continued to hold; (3) to Klisura, and then in the direction of Berat; (4) from Florina along the road to Koritza (captured 28 November) and Pogradets.

But the severe winter weather held up the offensive, though in spite of Italian counter-attacks the Greeks held their positions until early in April, when the Germans came to the rescue of their allies.



19. THE INVASION OF GREECE (Continued)

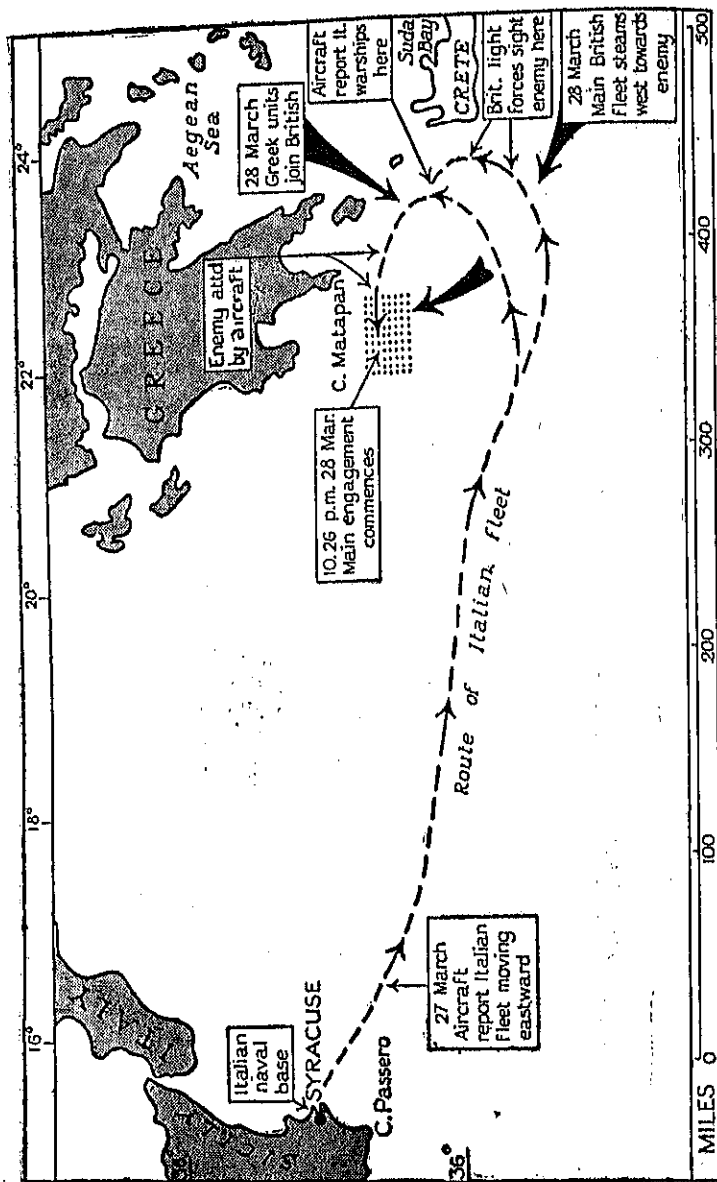
### 19. THE INVASION OF GREECE (*Continued*)

From Salonika and the lower Vardar valley German mechanized forces proceeded south-west along the Vistrizza valley. They captured Servia and Metsovo, each commanding a pass through the Pindus mountains to the plain of Thessaly, and linked up with Italian forces advancing into the plain from Janina.

Confronted by far superior enemy forces, their rear communications cut by hostile aircraft, the heroic Greek army of the Epirus surrendered. Imperial troops, their left flank now exposed, were compelled to retreat across the plain of Thessaly. Fighting rearguard actions they made a stand in the historic pass of Thermopylae, which, with the aid of airborne and parachute troops advancing from the south, the Germans captured by a pincer attack (see map).

Patras and Athens were occupied by the Germans. Parachute troops captured the isthmus and town of Corinth, and thus obtained control of the Peloponnesos. In the face of overwhelming odds the withdrawal of Imperial troops, who embarked from small harbours all along the coast, began on 27 April, three weeks after the German invaders had entered Greece.

Greece was occupied by Italian troops with the Germans holding the important air bases on the mainland and the islands. The population was literally left to starve.



## 20. THE BATTLE OF CAPE MATAPAN

On 27 March, 1941, British reconnaissance aircraft reported Italian warships east of Cape Passero (Sicily), travelling east. On the morning of 28 March British light forces sighted, south-west of Crete, a 35,000 ton Italian battleship of the *Littorio* class (subsequently identified as the *Vittorio Veneto*), accompanied by cruisers. Aircraft also reported another enemy force to the north of this position. After being sighted the Italian vessels proceeded in a westerly direction at high speed. Meanwhile the main British fleet steamed westward, and a Greek naval squadron proceeded to take up a strategic position between Crete and the Greek mainland.

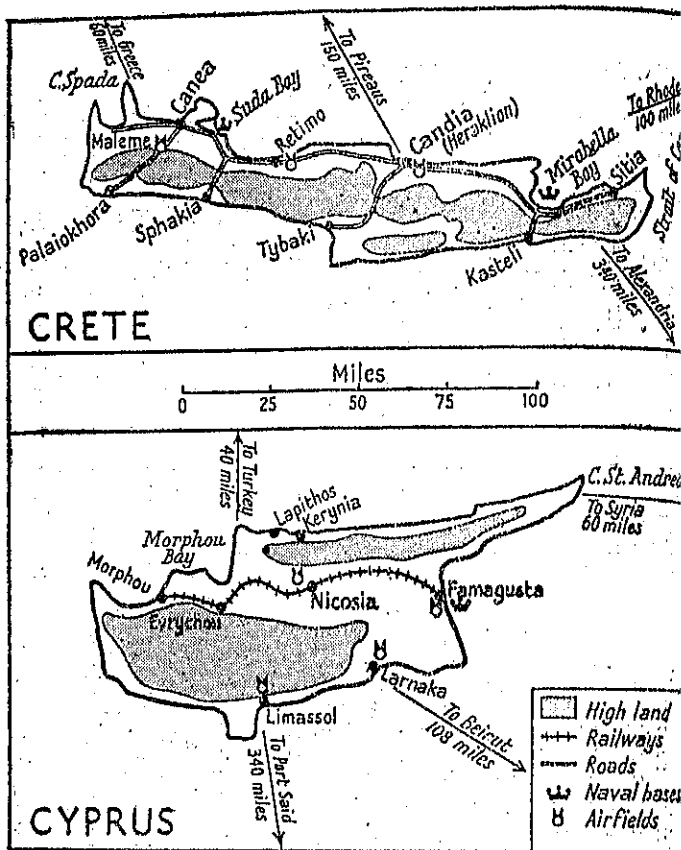
During the day of 28 March the Italian ships were so damaged by aircraft of the fleet air arm that they were forced to reduce speed. This allowed the British fleet to make contact with them by nightfall. The Italian ships, unaware of the proximity of their opponents, were proceeding in line when the British ships cut across their course.

At 10.26 p.m. the fleet went into action.

The result was devastating. Three Italian 10,000 ton cruisers and two destroyers were sunk, two other destroyers were probably sunk, and the *Vittorio Veneto* was crippled. The British fleet escaped without a scratch, the only casualties being two aircraft 'missing'.

Aircraft played a decisive part in the British victory, for if they had not deprived the enemy ships of their speed these would in all probability have escaped instead of being forced into action.

Before the Battle of Cape Matapan the principal Italian naval losses were: (1) the *San Giorgio*, a 9,232 ton cruiser, sunk by aircraft off Iobruk, on 11 June, 1940; (2) the *Bartholomeo Colleoni*, a 5,000 ton cruiser, sunk by H.M.A.S. *Sydney*, north-west of Crete, on 19 July, 1940; (3) four battleships, two cruisers, and two fleet auxiliaries damaged by the fleet air arm in an attack on Taranto on 11/12 November, 1940; (4) some twelve destroyers and torpedo boats, and nearly thirty submarines sunk on various dates.



21. THE BATTLE OF CRETE, 20 TO 31. MAY, 1941

22. CYPRUS

## 21. THE BATTLE OF CRETE, 20 TO 31 MAY, 1941

IN November, 1940, the British occupied Crete. Seven months later the Germans, operating from Greece, attacked the island, which they captured in eleven days.

Following intensive aerial bombardment, which included the dive-bombing of British forces, the invaders dropped parachute troops, and later landed men by troop-carrying planes and gliders, near Suda Bay, Canea, Retimo, Candia (Heraklion), and Maleme, the chief of the three airfields in the island.

It was not lack of aerodromes, but of adequate ground defences which compelled the R.A.F. to withdraw from Crete, and operate from Alexandria, a distance of 340 miles, compared with Greek airfields used by the Germans, which were only some 60 miles away. British difficulties were also intensified by a shortage of long-range fighters.

Throughout the invasion the Germans maintained mastery of the air. The Royal Navy was able to prevent the Germans from landing any large number of troops by sea, but in the narrow waters between Crete and Greece, and in the Strait of Canoso, two cruisers and four destroyers were lost, and two battleships and several cruisers damaged. Despite these reverses, the Mediterranean fleet was relatively stronger compared with the Italian fleet than before the Battle of Cape Matapan.

The Battle of Crete showed that (1) in confined seas unsupported air power can beat unsupported sea power; (2) to ensure success Britain must achieve mastery of the air; and (3) well protected aerodromes are essential both for offensive and defensive purposes. It showed also (4) that at night it is better to close in with parachute troops after they have landed, rather than fire at them in the air, because gun flashes draw the attention of dive-bombers.

## 22. CYPRUS

CYPRUS, a British colony, is about half the size of Wales. Strategically placed in the eastern Mediterranean, it is 40 miles from the coast of Turkey, and 60 miles from the coast of Syria. Famagusta is a naval base, and there are a number of airfields, whose defences—in view of the Battle of Crete—have been greatly strengthened.



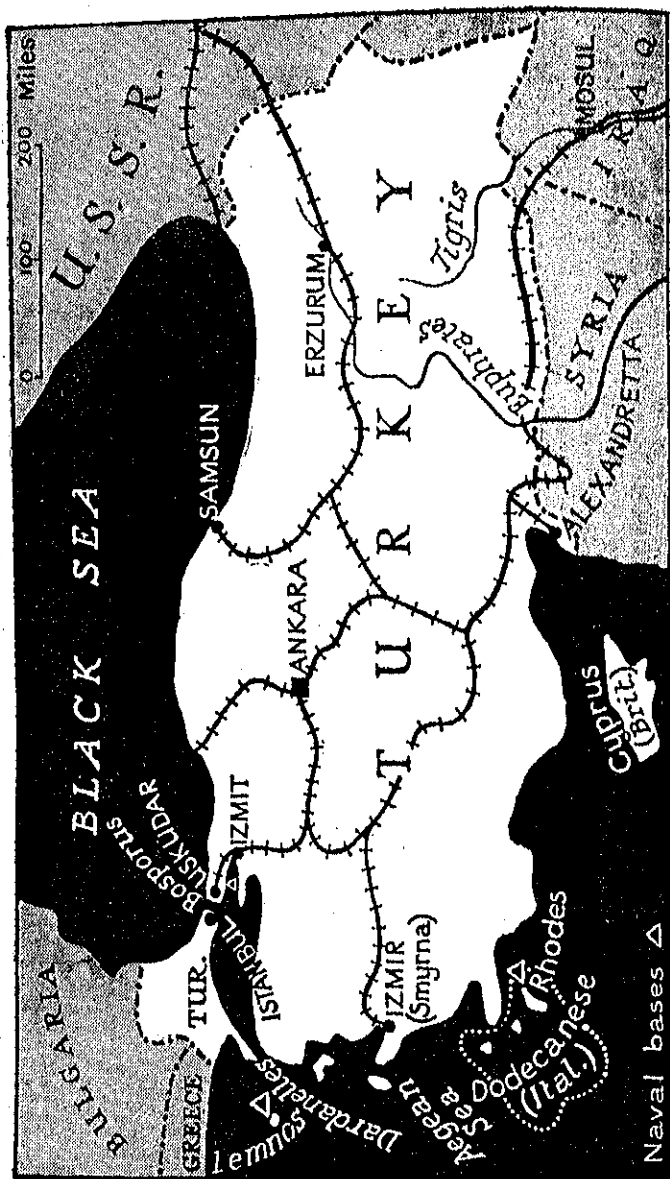
### 23. THE PARTITION OF AFRICA

In the partition of Africa between European powers, Britain, France, Belgium and Portugal obtained the chief shares. After the Italian conquest of Abyssinia in 1935-36, the only independent states in Africa were the negro republic of Liberia, and Egypt, whose frontiers are protected by Britain. By the Treaty of Versailles, Germany surrendered the following colonies, which were administered by the occupying powers under mandates from the League of Nations: Togo, which was divided between Britain and France; the Cameroons, ceded mainly to France, and a strip adjacent to Nigeria to Britain; South-west Africa to the Union of South Africa; German East Africa (now Tanganyika) to Britain, except for a small area which was transferred to Belgium.

After the fall of Belgium in 1940 the Belgian Congo remained free. In September, 1940, French Equatorial Africa declared for General de Gaulle and Fighting France. Thus, today an unbroken belt of British and allied territory stretches from South Africa to Egypt, and from the Atlantic across central Africa to the Indian Ocean.

In August, 1940, General de Gaulle's expedition to Dakar to secure the allegiance of the Senegal proved abortive. This colony, like the remaining French possessions in Africa, all of which were controlled by the pro-Nazi Vichy Government, was gradually penetrated by the Germans. The distance from Dakar to Brazil is approximately the same as that from Somaliland to India. Were the Germans to secure west and central Africa, they would not only menace the rest of the continent, but South America on the one hand, and India on the other.

On 5 May, 1942, British troops landed near Diego Suarez on Madagascar to forestall a Japanese move against the island and to safeguard vital shipping lines along the African east coast.



TURKEY is primarily an agricultural country with sufficient coal and iron for her own needs, and a surplus of chrome—that valuable steel-hardening metal—for export. Her strategic importance lies in her position athwart the route from Europe to Asia, which today makes her a buffer state between German-occupied Europe and the Middle East.

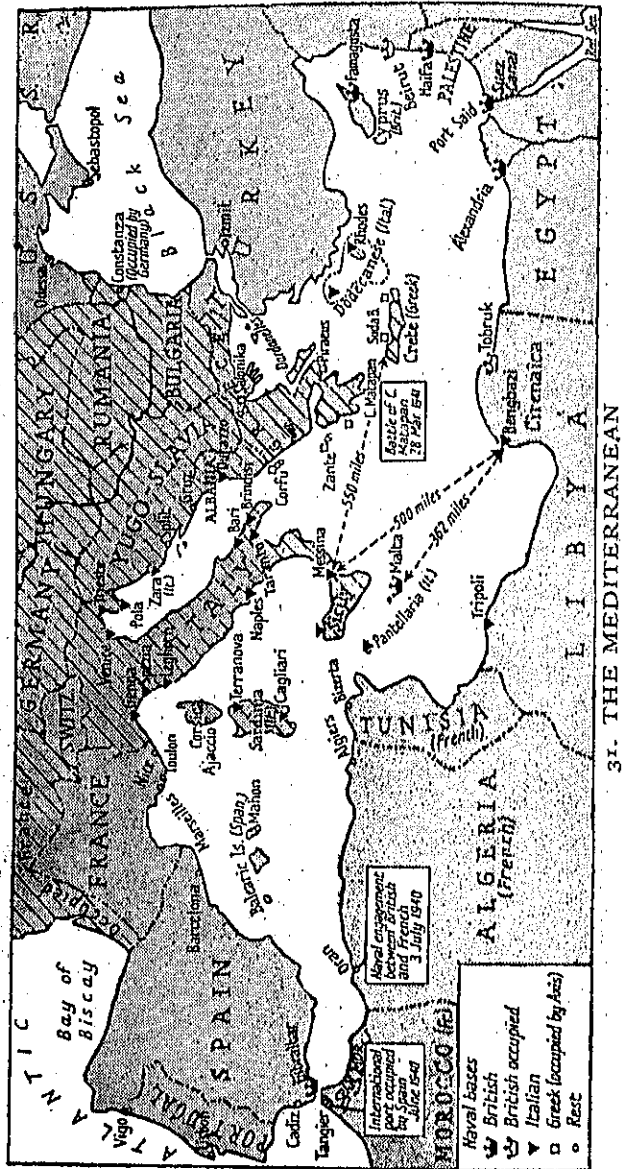
After the first Great War Turkey lost most of her European territory, as well as Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine. She was also forced to demilitarize the Dardanelles zone, but in 1936, by the Montreux Convention, she was allowed to refortify this vital artery leading from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea.

In 1939 Turkey concluded an alliance with Britain and France, and even after the collapse of the latter she remained faithful to her treaty with Britain. But the conquest of Yugoslavia and Greece, and the occupation of Crete and other Aegean islands by Germany; the British failure to seize the

Italian Dodecanese Islands, and her inability to furnish her ally with war material, all diminished Turkey's confidence in Britain's power to protect her from a German attack.

Hence, in June, 1941, Turkey concluded a Non-aggression Pact with Germany, though the Anglo-Turkish Treaty remained in being. The signing of this Non-aggression Pact was the signal for the invasion of Russia, for, by it, Germany protected the right flank of her armies from a possible Turkish attack, and, until the occupation of Iran (see map 29), prevented British forces in the Middle East from establishing contact with the Red armies.

The allied occupation of Syria and Iran removed a menace from Turkey's southern and eastern frontiers. Moreover, British control of Iraq, the Persian Gulf route, and the Iraqi portion of the Basra-Baghdad-Bosphorus railway, made Turkey less dependent on the good will of Germany. Lately Turkey has shown signs of benevolent neutrality.



31. THE MEDITERRANEAN

### 31. THE MEDITERRANEAN

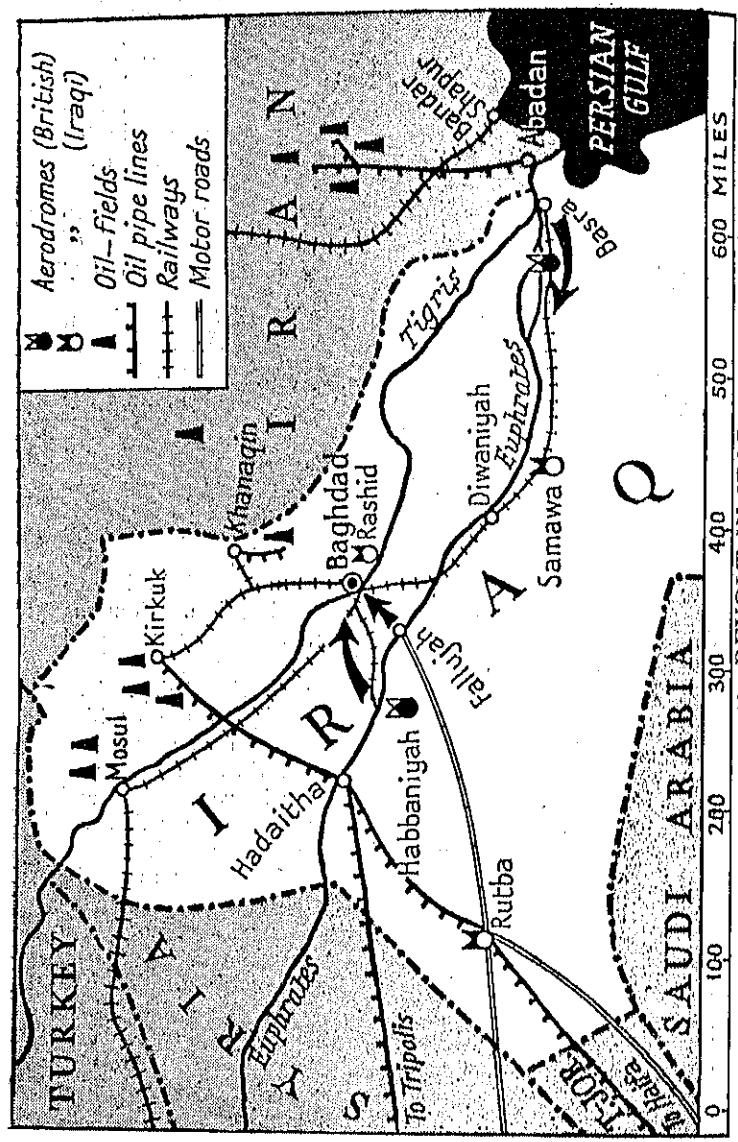
THE principal powers in the Mediterranean are Spain, Italy, France and Britain. Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus are British colonies; Palestine is administered under a mandate; Egypt is an ally of Britain, who is responsible for her defence.

By her control of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal (1,920 miles apart), Britain commands both entrances to the Mediterranean, and so is able to cut off most of Italy's seaborne trade, including her supplies of oil, nearly half of which usually pass through the Straits of Gibraltar.

Since the capitulation of France and the neutralization of Bizerta, Toulon and other naval centres, Gibraltar is the only base available to Britain in the western Mediterranean, and it would be menaced if Spain were to fortify Tangier, which she now occupies. Malta is exposed to air

attacks from Sicily, where the Germans established very strong air bases. So too is shipping travelling through the Sicilian Channel, which, however, is still used by British convoys to the Middle East. In the eastern Mediterranean, the British fleet is based on Alexandria, though there are also bases at Haifa, the terminus of the oil pipe line from Iraq, and at Famagusta in Cyprus.

Though the Axis powers hold the majority of the naval bases in the Mediterranean, Britain succeeded in sending large convoys to Malta and Egypt. The position was aggravated after the fall of Tobruk and the German advance into Egypt in June, 1942, but even then powerfully protected convoys reached Malta from Gibraltar, while Egypt was reinforced around the Cape.



## 27. REVOLT IN IRAQ

Early in April, 1941, a pro-German clique overthrew the Government of Iraq. Two weeks later British and Indian troops landed at Basra in accordance with the Anglo-Iraq Treaty of Alliance (1930) under which the British were authorized to maintain forces near Basra, and aerodromes in the vicinity of Basra, and at Habbaniyah.

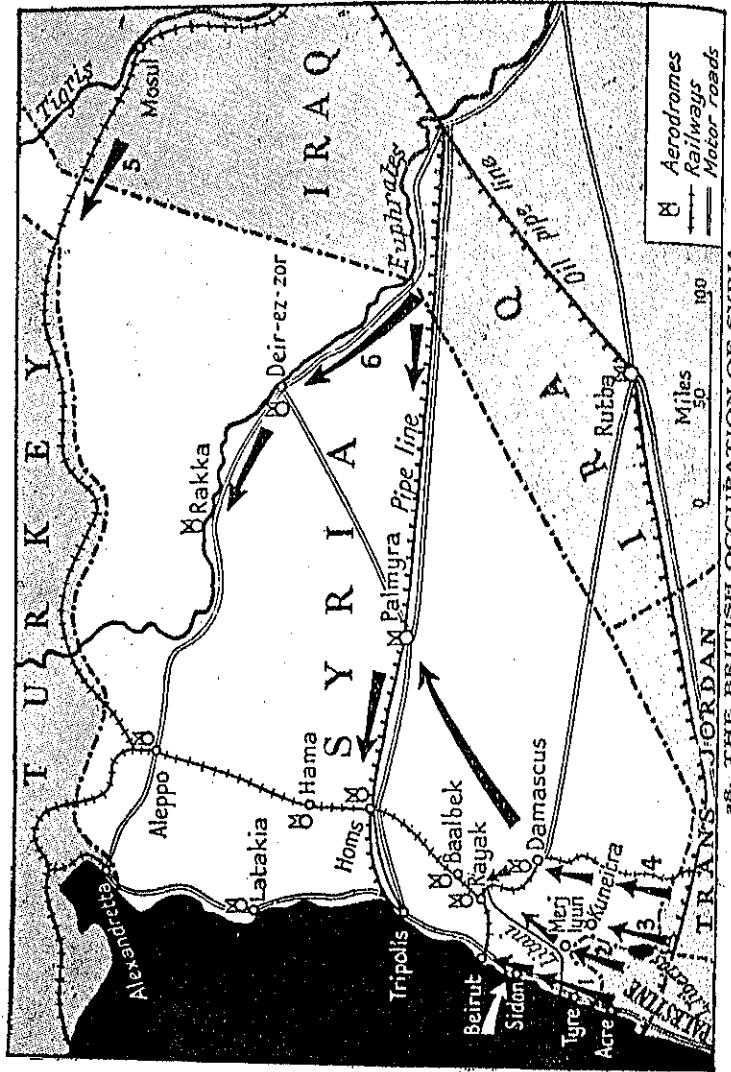
Open revolt broke out at the beginning of May, when Iraqi troops unsuccessfully attacked the R.A.F. aerodrome at Habbaniyah. Meanwhile British troops occupied strategic points in Basra; a column advanced up the Euphrates valley; and airborne reinforcements were sent to the besieged garrison at Habbaniyah. The R.A.F. took the offensive. They bombed the aerodrome at Rashid, near Baghdad, and that at Rutba (on the air route to India and the pipe line to Haifa), where they forced the garrison to surrender. They also attacked Aleppo, Palmyra, and other Syrian aerodromes, which were being used by German aircraft which were assisting

the Iraqi rebels. Troop concentrations were bombed at Diwaniyah and Fallujah, which was captured by the British on 21 May. From Fallujah, British forces advanced on Baghdad. The rebellion was quelled on 31 May, on which date an armistice was signed in Baghdad. British troops entered the capital on the following day, and shortly afterwards occupied Mosul and other strategic centres.

Not only did the Vichy Government allow the Germans to use Syrian airfields, but they supplied the Iraqi rebels with war material.

A successful rebellion in Iraq would have enabled the Germans (1) to seize the Iraqi oil-fields; (2) to secure the Iranian (Persian) oil-fields, and the great oil refinery at Abadan at the head of the Persian Gulf; (3) to cut off the Turkish supply route followed by the railway from Basra to the Bosphorus; and (4) to gain control of the Iranian railway from Bandar Shapur (on the Persian Gulf) to Teheran, and the Caspian.

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28. THE BRITISH OCCUPATION OF SYRIA

The pro-German policy of the Vichy Government forced Britain to occupy Syria. Partly because of the mountainous terrain, but mainly for political reasons, the British advance into the country—after its initial stage—was slow.

At dawn on 8 June, 1941, British, Australian, Indian and Fighting French forces, with strong air support, crossed the Syrian frontier from Palestine and Transjordan. They advanced in four columns (see map):

- (1) along the coast road to Tyre, across the river Litani to Sidon, which, after fierce fighting and a bombardment by the Royal Navy, was captured on 15 June by Australians, who then continued towards Beirut;
  - (2) through Merj Iyun, where the Vichy French offered stubborn resistance;
  - (3) from a point near Lake Tiberias to Kuneitra, and on towards Damascus, on which columns were also advancing along
  - (4) the Amman-Damascus railway.
- Damascus fell on 21 June. About this date

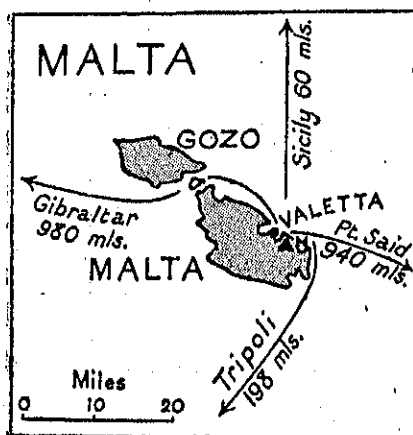
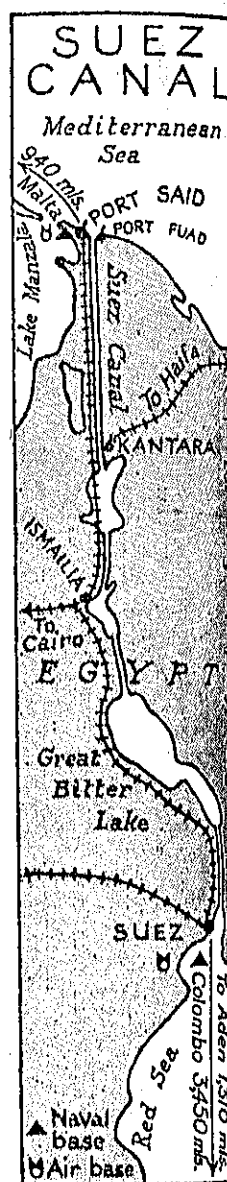
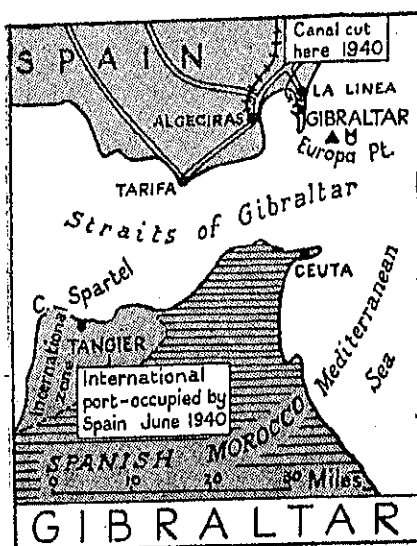
mechanized units advanced into Syria from Iraq.)

(5) from Mosul along the railway to the Turkish frontier;

(6) up the Euphrates valley to Deir-ez-zor, which was taken on 3 July by Indian troops, who then advanced towards Rakka;

(7) along the trans-desert route to Palmyra, which was also the objective of armoured columns from Damascus. The occupation on 3 July of this important aerodrome, on the oil pipe line from Iraq to Tripolis, opened the way to Homs, a key point on the Damascus-Aleppo railway.

The Vichy French asked for an armistice, which was signed at Acre (Palestine) on 13 July. By its terms (1) the British right of occupation was recognized; (2) the Vichy French troops were allowed to keep their personal arms and equipment; and (3) were given the choice of either being repatriated to France, or of joining the Fighting French forces. The Vichy authorities tried, however, in every way to prevent the last-named condition from being fulfilled.



32-34. BRITAIN'S LIFE-LINE TO THE EAST

32-34. BRITAIN'S LIFE-LINE TO THE EAST  
*GIBRALTAR, MALTA, THE SUEZ CANAL*

32. *Gibraltar* guards the entrance from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. This British fortress, naval and air base, and refuelling station, on the route to the Far East, is said to have been transformed into an island by cutting a strategic canal across the low isthmus which joins the Rock to Spain. The Straits of Gibraltar are only 15 miles wide, and if the Spanish port of Ceuta, and the international port of Tangier, occupied by Spain in June, 1940, were fortified, they would minimize the importance of Gibraltar, which would be also open to attack by German troops from Spain.

33. *Malta*, midway between Gibraltar (980 miles) and the Suez Canal (940 miles), owes its importance to its strategic position between Sicily (60 miles), and the coast of Africa (180 miles). Powerful air squadrons have interfered continuously with Axis supplies to Libya. The Germans tried to protect their convoys with heavy air attacks on Malta, aimed at immobilizing the R.A.F. German raids were always heaviest when Axis reinforcements were on their way to Libya. Only exceptionally strong anti-aircraft defences enabled Malta to resist about 1,500 air raids up to 31 August, 1942, in which nearly 1,000 German planes were destroyed. Malta has been awarded the George Medal for her undaunted courage.

34. *The Suez Canal*, a vital link in Britain's life-line to India and the Far East, is 104½ miles long. In normal times 70 per cent of the European trade of India, and 25 per cent of the import and 50 per cent of the export trade of Australia, passes through the canal. There are naval and air bases at Port Said and Suez. The Suez Canal area was repeatedly raided by Axis bombers.



### 35. THE RESOURCES OF THE U.S.S.R.

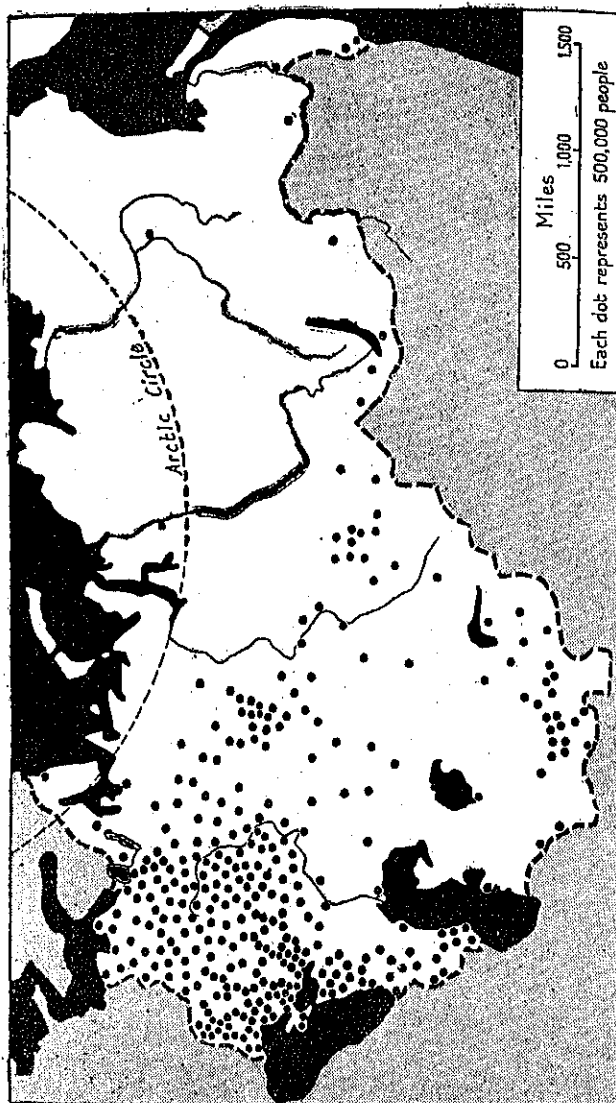
Soviet Russia, excluding territories gained during 1939-40, has 170,000,000 inhabitants. Only the British Empire exceeds it in size, and only the British Empire and China have a larger population. Formerly an agricultural country, Russia has been industrialized during the last decade: in 1939, 40 per cent of the occupied population were engaged in industry compared with nearly 60 per cent in agriculture. Each industrial area is accessible to a coal-field, to water-power, and to waterways. Chief among them is the Donetz Basin, in the Ukraine, 400 to 500 miles from the western frontier. Fortunately the newer industrial areas are situated in the region stretching from the Urals into Siberia, where they are remote from land and air attacks. The Caucasian oil-fields lie between the Caspian and the Black Sea, but another oil-field has now been opened up in the southern Urals.

As world supplier, Russia stands fourth in her output of coal, second for iron ore and third for steel. She is rich in steel-hardening metals (manganese and chrome),

copper and nickel, and has a moderate supply of bauxite (aluminium ore). The oil production is 10 per cent of world production and ranks second to that of the U.S.A. (60 per cent). Originally 85 per cent of Russia's oil came from the Caucasus but during the last year the output of the Ural and Central-Asian fields has been multiplied.

The loss of the Donetz Basin and the threat to the Caucasus are bound to impair Russia's war effort. She depends now on her central and eastern industries and on supplies from the British Empire and the U.S.A. which can reach her (1) via Murmansk and the White Sea ports (1,800 to 2,000 miles from Britain through hostile waters) and (2) via the Cape and the Indian Ocean to the Persian Gulf (15,000 miles from Britain and 16,000 from the U.S.A.). The Murmansk railway has been cut, but a new branch line links it via the Archangel line with Moscow and the Ural area.

Entirely new and independent industries have been developed in the Far East to supply the eastern army (see map 47).



36. DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN THE U.S.S.R. BEFORE 1941

### 36. DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN THE U.S.S.R. BEFORE 1941

In 1940, with 193,000,000 inhabitants (including territories gained during 1939-40) the U.S.S.R. contained approximately 9 per cent of the world's population. Today, as under the Tsarist regime, the greatest concentration is found in its European part, especially in the Ukraine, where in normal times live somewhat over 20 per cent of the inhabitants of the U.S.S.R. As will be seen from the following examples, increased industrial activity caused a remarkable increase in the population of the older industrial centres:

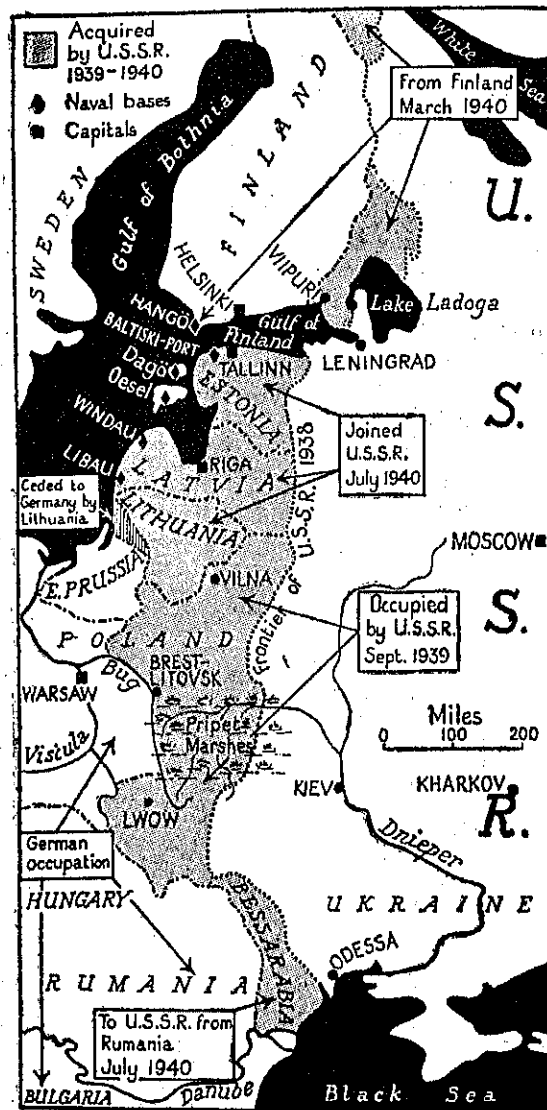
	1926	1939	1926	1939
Moscow	2,000,000	4,137,000	Khar'kov	833,000
Leningrad	1,600,000	3,191,000	Gorky	644,000

But the movement of industry to the east has resulted in an important redistribution of population (1) along the Trans-Siberian railway, the vital artery which links the new industrial areas with the west, and (2) in Central Asia. Of course, this redistribution is not uniform, for it is based on natural

resources, and in regions such as the Arctic climatic conditions obviously preclude close settlement. In recent years more than 100 new towns, each with a present population of over 100,000, have been established.

It will be seen from the map that a very large proportion of Russia's population is concentrated in regions already occupied by the German armies and, even if whole districts together with their industries were evacuated and resettled further east, the loss of population must eventually affect the manpower of the Russian armies. At the time of the German invasion she had 8,000,000 men mobilized, 10,000,000 ready to be called up and a Home Defence Force (corresponding to the British Home Guard) of 20,000,000.

During 1942, Russia was asking for the opening of a 'second front' in Europe which would draw German armies to the west and relieve the enormous pressure of military might which Russia has had to bear almost alone.



37. THE EXPANSION OF THE U.S.S.R., 1939-40

37. THE EXPANSION OF THE U.S.S.R.,  
1939-40

THE map shows in dotted shading the territories acquired by the U.S.S.R. between September, 1939, and July, 1940.

The Russo-German Non-aggression Pact, signed on 23 August, 1939, precipitated the invasion of Poland. After the partition of that country, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania each signed a Treaty of Mutual Assistance with Russia, who, in return for guaranteeing their independence, was granted the right to establish naval and air bases at Baltiski, and on the islands of Dagö and Oesel off the coast of Estonia, and at Libau and Windau in Latvia (see map 5). But the independence of the three Baltic republics was shortlived, for in July, 1940, they joined the Soviet Union.

After her invasion of Finland (see map 5) Russia obtained permission to lease the Finnish naval and air base of Hangö.

In July, 1940, Rumania was forced to cede Bessarabia to the U.S.S.R. (see map 16).

But Russia's westward expansion, made possible by the connivance of Germany, came to an abrupt end in June, 1941, when Hitler's armies marched into the U.S.S.R.



38. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (1)

### 38. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (1)

*22 June to 31 July, 1941*

ON 22 June, 1941, the Germans, aided by the Finns, Rumanians and Hungarians, attacked Russia along a 1,500 mile front extending from Finland to the Black Sea.

Russia's main defences were (1) a line, lightly held, along her 1939-40 frontier, and (2) the Stalin Line, an area of considerable depth, protecting her 1938 frontier. The forested terrain, with its rivers and swamps, lent itself to defensive action, but there was no rigid front. Except along the Finnish front, the fighting was zonal.

On the Finnish front (1 on map) the invaders attempted to advance (1) between Lakes Ladoga and Onega in order to cut the railway to Murmansk, and the Stalin Canal, and (2) across the Karelian isthmus to Leningrad, towards which, from the Baltic zone (2 on map), the Germans drove north and south of Lake Peipus.

The principal German advance was in the central sector (3 on map), where early in the campaign they occupied Russian Poland, and from Brest-Litovsk proceeded through the Baranovitch Gap, north of the Pripet Marshes, to Minsk, captured on 1 July. In this phase the Germans covered about 20 miles a day. After a pause they started the second wave of their offensive, but stubborn resistance reduced their progress to under 10 miles a day. A three-pronged thrust, across the railway from Leningrad to the Ukraine, carried them to Smolensk. This became the apex of a huge salient, whose northern arm extended to Lake Peipus and whose southern one ran through Bobruisk to the Pripet Marshes. By driving this wedge towards Moscow, the Germans hoped to separate the Russian armies in the north from those in the south and so compel a retreat along the whole front.

On the southern front (4 on map), i.e. south of the Pripet Marshes, the enemy drove through Jitomir towards Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine. From Jitomir the battle zone ran south-west to the 1938 frontier along the Dniester, and down that river to the Black Sea.

Towards the end of July the second offensive wave spent itself, but the Germans had not succeeded in reaching their main objectives—Leningrad, Moscow, Kiev, and Odessa—and, more important, had failed to disintegrate the Red armies.



39. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (2)

### 39. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (2)

1 to 31 August, 1941

DURING August the Germans, using their now familiar methods of tank warfare, continued to advance by narrow thrusts, which paved the way for wider infiltration. Even so the invaders did not control the whole area through which they passed. Isolated towns, such as Tallinn (captured 28 Aug.) held out, and in their rear the Germans were attacked by armed groups and guerrillas.

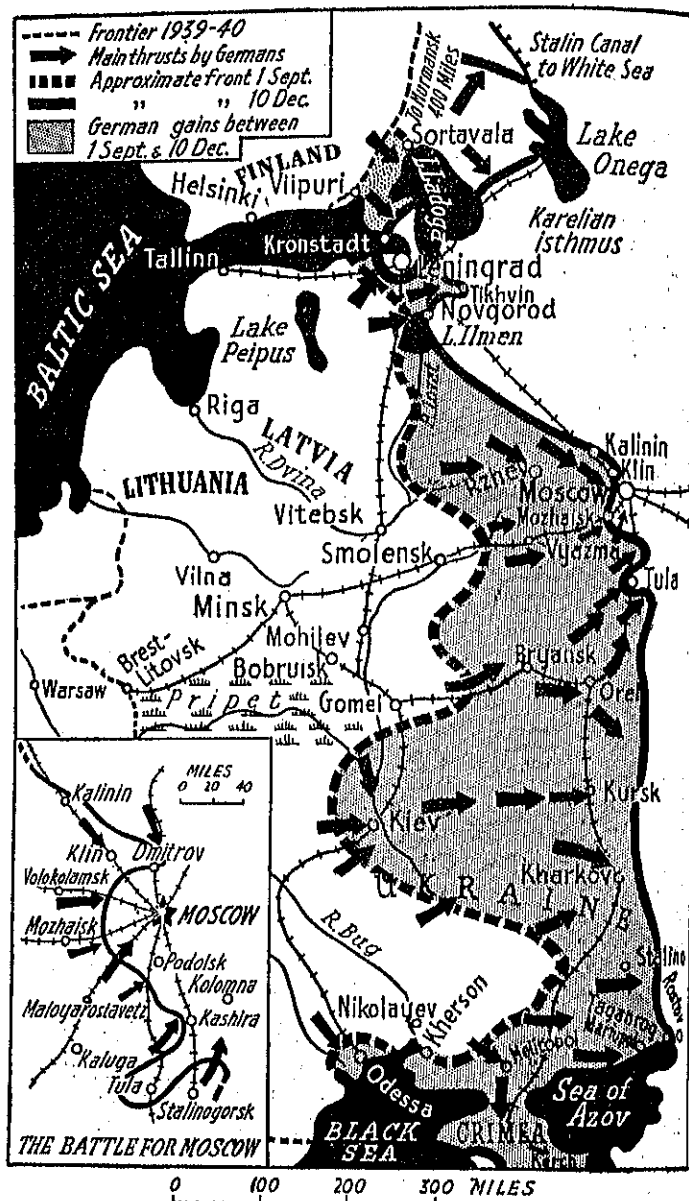
As will be seen by the map, the Germans covered far less ground in August than during the preceding five weeks. This was mainly due to the stubborn resistance of the Russians, but partly to increasing difficulties of transport. On both sides the losses were enormous. But those of the Russians were obviously greater, for a retreating army cannot retrieve its wounded or make good its losses in tanks, guns, munitions and stores.

In the *central salient* (3 on map) the main German thrusts were in the north and south, i.e. on the flanks of a front from the Gulf of Finland to the Black Sea.

On the *northern front* (2 on map), where Leningrad was the main objective, (i) German units advancing (i) west and north, and (ii) east of L. Peipus, joined forces and captured Kingisepp on the Tallinn-Leningrad railway; while (2) other armies striking (i) north of L. Ilmen captured Novgorod, and (ii) south crossed the R. Lovat.

On the *southern front* (5 on map) the main weight of the German attack was delivered in the south, where, having crossed the Dniester, the invading armies entered the Ukraine. They (1) invested Odessa, (2) advanced down the southern Bug valley and occupied the naval base of Nikolayev, and Kherson, and (3) driving west towards the great bend in the Dnieper, behind which the Red armies retired, captured Dnepropetrovsk, but failed to secure the dam and power station at Zaporozje, which were blown up by the Russians. Farther north (4 on map) the Germans captured Gomel, commanding railways to Kiev and Moscow, and thrust towards Bryansk.

The *Finnish front* (1 on map). On 16 August the Finns took Sortavala, and on the 30th Viipuri, thus opening the way to the Karelian isthmus and Leningrad.



40. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (3)

#### 40. THE INVASION OF RUSSIA (3)

*1 September to 10 December, 1941*

DURING September the Germans made some progress on the Leningrad front. In the central front the Russians counter-attacked, came quite close to Smolensk and captured Yel'nia. On the Ukrainian front, the Germans captured Kiev on 20 September and then moved across the plains towards Kursk and Kharkov, taking Poltava.

October was disastrous for the Russians. The Germans launched their great offensive for Moscow, which carried them within 65 miles of the capital in the first three weeks. The southern pincer of the attack captured Orel, necessitating the evacuation of Bryansk and Vyazma and the retreat of the Russian armies behind the Moscow defences. The northern pincer reached Kalinin via Rzhev. The Government left Moscow for Kuibyshev.

In the Ukraine German armies captured the important industrial centre Kharkov and advanced on Stalino. A drive along the shores of the Sea of Azov brought them to Taganrog and the gates of Rostov. They also forced the Perekop isthmus and broke into the Crimea. Odessa was captured after a two-months siege on 26 October.

During the first half of November the Russians held the approaches to Moscow, especially at Tula. In the south, the Germans reached Kursk, captured Feodosia in the Crimea, and Rostov. In the north they crossed the Leningrad-Moscow railway and took Tikhvin. Leningrad was now surrounded on land but was reinforced across the frozen Lake Ladoga.

In spite of severe winter conditions Hitler ordered his final assault on Moscow on 16 November. Moscow was to be attacked from three sides (see small map). The German pressure was heaviest in the Mozhaisk and Maloyaroslavets sector. On 5 December the Germans crossed the Moscow-Tula railway. On 6 December the Russians counter-attacked in force, forcing the Germans to begin a large-scale retreat on 10 December.

In the south, Timoshenko recaptured Rostov on 9 November and pushed into the Ukraine, by-passing Taganrog, while the Germans captured the strategically important Kerch peninsula and invested Sebastopol.



41. EUROPE UNDER THE HEEL OF THE NAZIS

#### 41. EUROPE UNDER THE HEEL OF THE NAZIS.

THE map shows the countries in Europe conquered or controlled by Germany, with the dates of their invasion or submission.

In September, 1942, the only countries in continental Europe not occupied or invaded were: (1) Sweden; (2) Switzerland, surrounded by Axis territory; (3) Vichy France; (4) Spain, a pro-Axis non-belligerent; (5) Portugal, Britain's oldest ally; and (6) Turkey, who, though an ally of Britain, signed a Non-aggression Pact with Germany in June, 1941, and so removed the last obstacle to the German invasion of Russia.

Germany exploited occupied territory to the fullest. Europe's industry, agriculture and finance were harnessed to the Nazi war machine. Hundreds of thousands of workers were driven, under the threat of starvation, from occupied lands into Germany to replenish German manpower. But resistance, if only passive, remained stiff as is proved by the ever-increasing number of executions. Fighting resistance, under General Mihailovitch, continued only in Yugoslavia, tying down several German and Italian divisions.

The Atlantic, Channel and North Sea coasts were heavily fortified by Germany against an invasion of Europe by the allies. Specially trained 'commando' troops, however, raided the coasts periodically, keeping many divisions of the German army from fighting on other fronts. The more important commando raids were: Lofoten Islands, Norway (March, 1941), Spitzbergen (September, 1941), Vaagso Island, Norway (December, 1941, Bruneval radio location post, France (February, 1942), St Nazaire, France (March, 1942) and the mammoth raid on Dieppe in August, 1942.

Meanwhile, the R.A.F. carried out day and night bombing of Nazi-controlled Europe (see map 14).

## 42. JAPAN

JAPAN proper consists of the four large islands Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and Hokkaido and some smaller islands. The total population of the Japanese Empire (excluding Manchuria) was 97,700,000 in 1935. The nature of the country does not allow of further agricultural expansion and the natural resources set a limit to autarchic industrial development. Japan has therefore pursued an aggressive imperialistic policy since the first war with China in 1894-5 (see map 43). The country is mountainous and chiefly agricultural with only a few large cities such as Tokyo (6 mill.), Osaka (3 mill.), Kyoto, Nagoya and Kobe (1 mill. each), Yokohama and Hiroshima. Over 52 per cent of Japan's industries are concentrated in these seven cities alone. Japan has a highly developed railway system which has not been shown on the map.

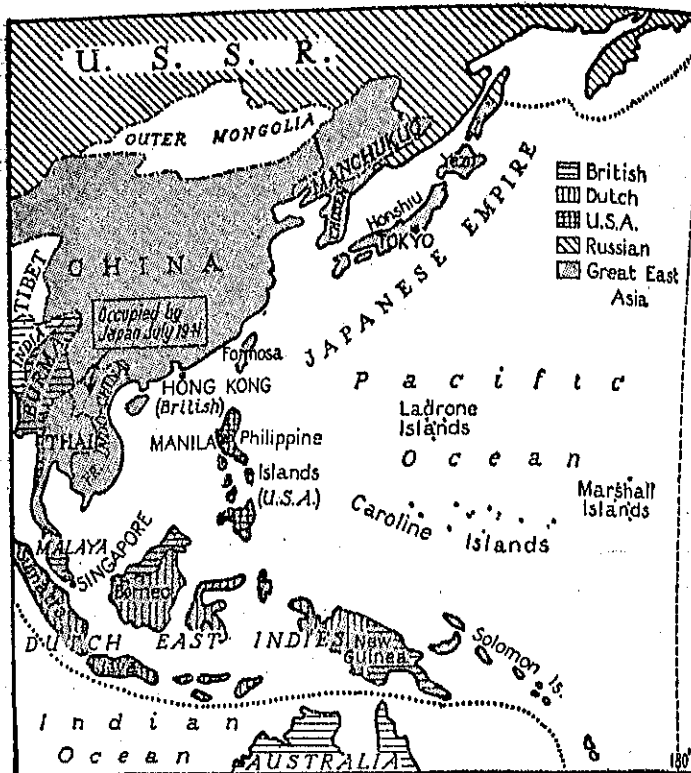
Japan has to rely on imported foodstuffs. Mineral resources include coal, copper, sulphur and phosphorus. Iron and oil deposits are very poor. The production of oil from coal has made some progress. Intelligent use of water-power in the mountains of central Japan supplies energy. Japan's chief industry is the textile industry in which she ranked fifth in the world. Other manufactures include machinery, chemicals, paper, foodstuffs, novelties and toys. America and India were Japan's chief suppliers and customers, with Manchuria and China following. In shipping Japan ranked next to Britain and the U.S.A.

Although the industrial resources of Japan and her stocks of raw materials must not be underestimated it must be realized that she is 85 per cent deficient in oil, 55 per cent in iron, 60 per cent in copper and completely in a whole range of semi-manufactures. She counts on immediate exploitation of her recent conquests and, like Germany, on a *blitzkrieg* victory before the Allied Nations can bring their strength to bear on her.

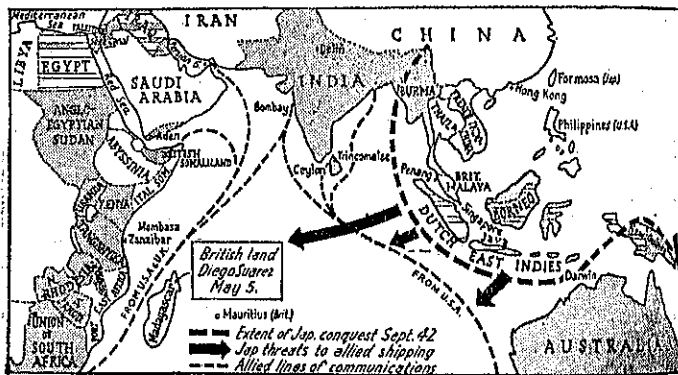
*Korea* (Chosen), annexed in 1910, has about 23 million inhabitants. Anti-Japanese feeling is very strong.

*Formosa* (Taiwan), annexed 1895, has a population of 5 million. Its strategic importance is great.

*Sakhalin* (Karafuto), the southern half of Sakhalin, came to Japan after the war with Russia in 1905.



43. JAPAN'S 'CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE'



44. THE STRATEGY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

#### 43. JAPAN'S 'CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE'

THE map shows in dotted shading those parts of eastern Asia and Oceania which Japan proposes to incorporate in her 'Co-prosperity Sphere' of Greater East Asia. This area extends from Japan west to Burma and east to the 180th meridian. Ultimately Japan wishes to include Australia, New Zealand, and India in Greater East Asia, which would give her control of a region containing half the population of the world.

The story of Japanese imperialism began, under the Meiji dynasty, with the acquisition of Formosa after the war with China in 1895. Followed Karafuto (Sakhalin) from Russia in 1905, Chosen (Korea) in 1910, Port Arthur and Dairen in 1915, the former German territories in the South Seas, the Marshall and Caroline Islands, as mandates, in 1919, Manchukuo (Manchuria and Jehol) in 1931-2, parts of China since 1937, Indo-China in 1941, Hong Kong, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies, Malaya, Burma and several Pacific islands after 7 December 1941 (see maps 45-51).

These possessions, if fully exploited, would make Japan's 'Co-prosperity Sphere' self-supporting in most industrial and strategical raw materials except iron and steel, which China's and Manchuria's undeveloped resources could not supply in sufficient quantities. The Indian iron and steel industry was a tempting prize for further aggression (see map 52).

Japanese policy, which aims at self-sufficiency for Greater East Asia, is akin to that of Germany, and is essentially totalitarian in character. Thus primary producing lands would be grouped around Japan, an industrial state, who would exercise complete political and economic control over her satellites.

#### 44. THE STRATEGY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

VITAL supply lines from Great Britain, the Empire and the United States, for the allied armies in India, the Middle East and Russia cross the Indian Ocean. After her conquests of 1942, Japan was in a position to threaten these lines by surface and submarine raiders. Japanese submarine activity along the east coast of Africa led to the occupation of Diego Suarez, Madagascar's naval base, by British troops in May, 1942.

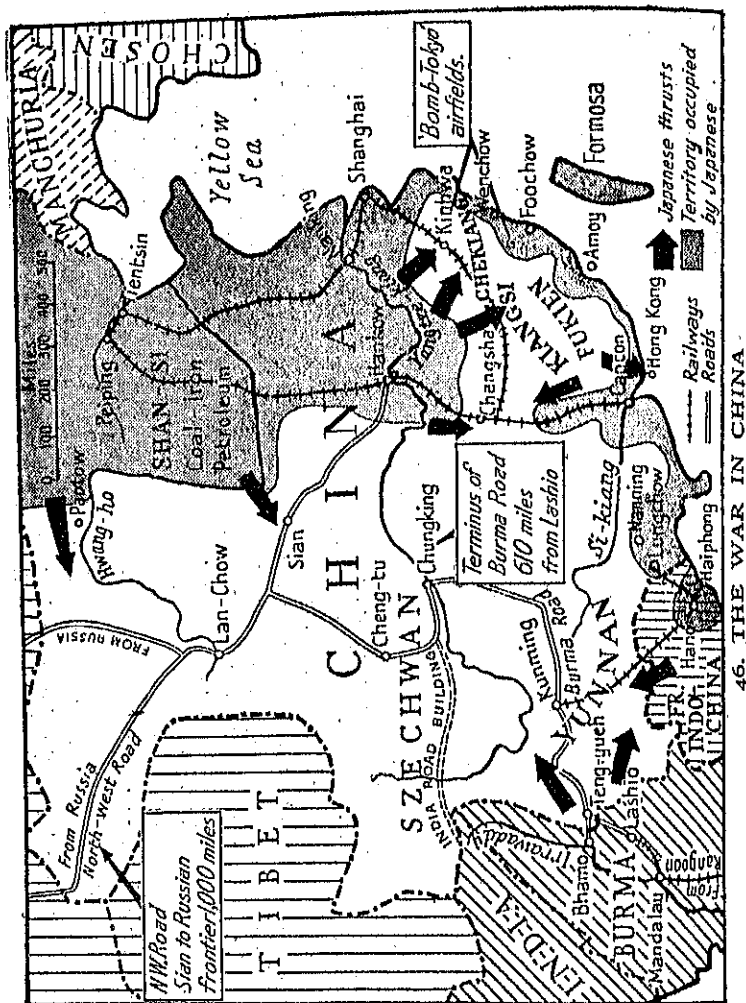


ON December 7, 1941, Japan struck in the Pacific. The initial blow at Pearl Harbour, America's greatest naval base in the Pacific, was not successful in destroying the U.S. navy but did enough damage to allow the Japanese a free hand for some time. They proceeded to clear up the remaining allied naval bases in the Pacific and attacked Manila (Jan. 2), Hong Kong (Dec. 25), Singapore (Feb. 15), Guam (Dec. 13), Wake Island (Dec. 22) and Midway Island, all of which, except the last, were eventually captured on the dates given. The Japanese surprised with the quality of their air force and they excelled in combined land-sea-air operations. Within six months, by the end of May, 1942, they had conquered all allied territory east of Burma and north of New Guinea, had footholds in New Guinea, New Britain and the Solomons, and were striking hard at China. Early in June they made another large-scale combined attack on Midway Island, which led to an important American air and sea victory. By now America had recovered from the initial shock and proved superior to the Japanese in tac-

tics and materials. The Japanese lost four aircraft-carriers in this action alone. During the same week they occupied Kiska, Attu and Agattu at the western end of the 12,000 mile-long chain of the Aleutian Islands which guard the northern Pacific route. They also attacked by air Dutch Harbour, the American base in the Aleutians. The Americans counter-attacked by sea and air, and Agattu and Attu were later abandoned by the invaders.

In the south-western Pacific, allied offensive actions included attacks on the Gilbert and Marshall Islands (February), Marcus and Wake Islands (March), and the Coral Sea battle (May) off the N.E. shores of Australia, which prevented further Japanese expansion. In August, 1942, the Americans re-occupied some of the Solomon Islands. On 18 April the American air force raided Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Nagoya.

By September, 1942, Japan had conquered large territories and her fleets were, though battered, still powerful on the seas. But large allied forces were slowly concentrating and coming into action against her.



46. THE WAR IN CHINA

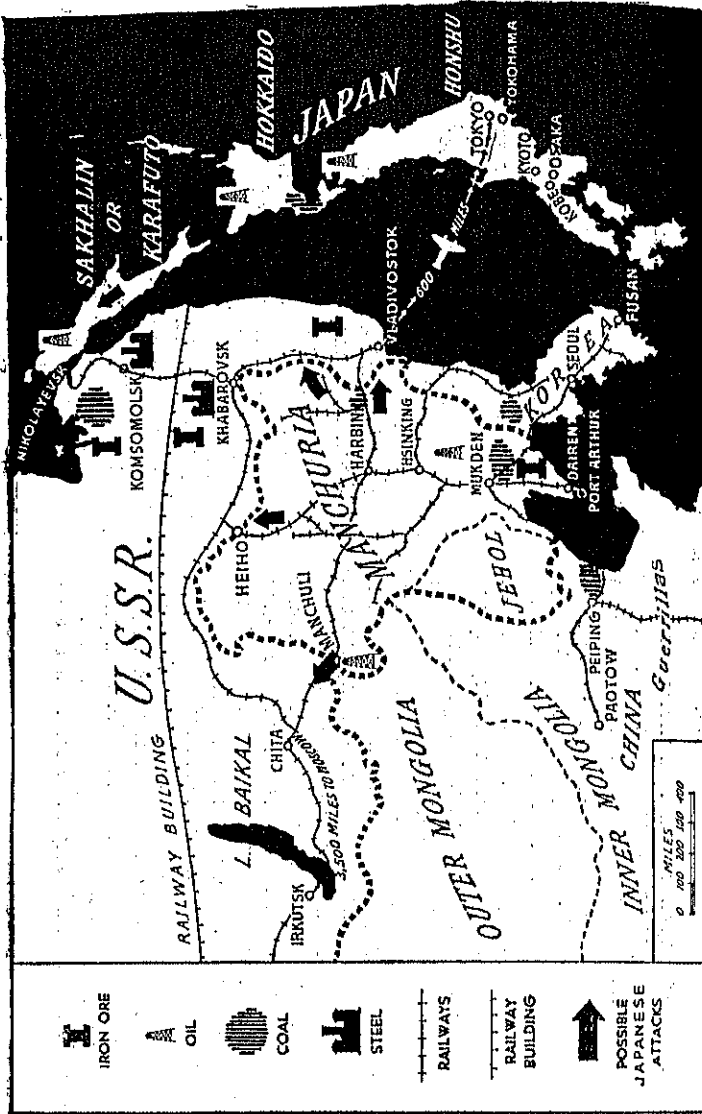
#### 46. THE WAR IN CHINA

In 1932 Japan seized Manchuria and the adjacent provinces of China proper. In 1937 she invaded China. The shaded areas on the map indicate only very roughly the extent of Japanese occupation, which hinges along river courses, railways, roads and on important ports and cities. Behind and in between Japanese-held territory operate Chinese armies and guerrilla groups.

With Japan's entry into the war in December, 1941, China joined the United Nations. Japanese operations in China during 1941-2 aimed mainly at a complete control of the chief railway lines and at an interruption of foreign supplies to China. Thrusts on the Mongolian border (Paotow) and in Shan-si threatened communications with Russia. Drives for the river ports secured the southern seaboard (Foochow captured in June, Wenchow in August). Fierce battles were fought for the control of the Hankow-Canton and the Shanghai-Chekiang-Kiangsi railways (vital links with Indo-China and Malaya). Both thrusts were

frustrated. (The Japanese were defeated at Changsha in January, 1942.)

After the fall of Burma in May, 1942, the Burma Road, China's only link with Britain and America, was cut. The construction of an overland route from India was immediately started, but for the time being China could receive supplies only by air. In May and June the Japanese launched a large-scale campaign in Chekiang, Fukien and Kiangsi and, through Burma, in Yunnan, meant as a final knock-out blow for China. In Chekiang they captured the capital Kihwa (May) and the 'bomb Tokyo' airfields, Lishui and Chunsien, from which American bombers threatened Japan (600 miles from Nagasaki, 1,250 miles from Tokyo). In August the Chinese recaptured the Chekiang airfields and pressed close on to Kihwa and Canton. Support to and reopening communications with China are amongst the chief items in the allied plan to defeat Japan.



#### 47. MANCHURIA AND THE U.S.S.R.

In 1932 Japan set up Manchukuo as an autonomous state, with the capital Hsinking. It was composed of the former Chinese provinces of Manchuria and Jehol. Manchuria is rich in coal and iron, but the industrial development of these resources is only in its beginning. There are also fairly large deposits of oil-shales from which oil can be distilled and a certain amount of petroleum. Soya-beans are the most important agricultural product, and are suitable raw material for numerous food and manufactured articles.

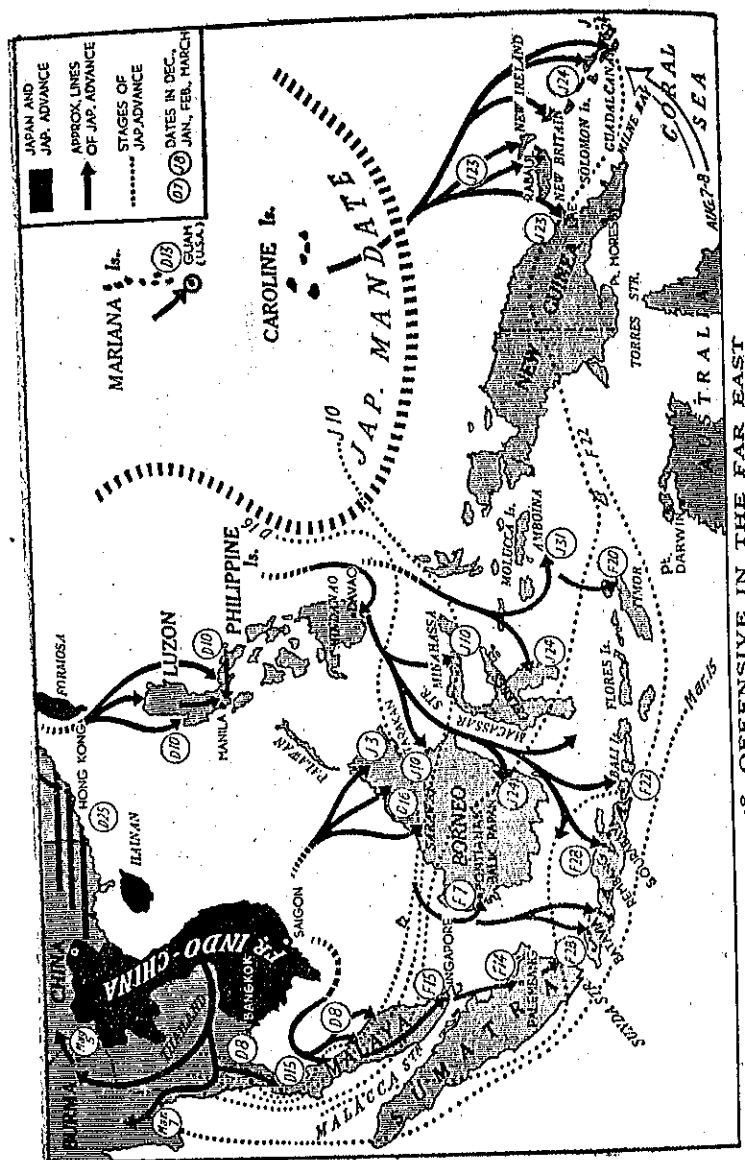
In Manchukuo, Japan holds a strategically important position opposite the Far Eastern region of the U.S.S.R. The Manchurian railways can carry troops to several points on the borders from where Russian communications could be threatened (see map). Vladivostok might be attacked and cut off from the rest of Russian territory. Russia, during the last few years, has developed her Far Eastern area as a more

or less self-supporting region. Rich coal and iron deposits have been developed into the steel industries of Khabarovsk and Komsomolsk (City of Communist Youth). Sakhalin oil is refined here (420,000 tons in 1940). A new railway, further north than the Trans-Siberian railway, is under construction to safeguard communications in case of a Japanese attack.

From Vladivostok Russian or allied bombers could easily reach Tokyo (600 miles) and other centres of Japanese industry.

Since 1931 over 2,500 border clashes have occurred between Russian and Japanese troops, the more serious ones on the eastern border of Manchukuo. In 1941 Russia and Japan signed a Neutrality Pact.

The Russian 'east army', built up by Marshal Bluecher, is reported to have 60 fully trained and equipped divisions. Since August, 1942, the Japanese are said to have concentrated 30 to 50 divisions along the Manchurian borders.



#### 48. OFFENSIVE IN THE FAR EAST

THE Japanese conquest of the Far East and the SW. Pacific was completed within six months.

*First stage (Dec. 7-16).* Invasion of Malaya (see map 50), Hong Kong (see map 49), Thailand, the Philippines (see map 49), Guam, Sarawak in NW. Borneo, and the southern tip of Burma. Guam falls on 13 December, Hong Kong on 25 December.

*Second stage (Dec. 17 to Jan. 10).* Advances in Malaya and the Philippines. Invasion of Dutch colonies (Tarakan, oil centre off E. Borneo, and Minahassa, N. Celebes). Portuguese Timor occupied by British.

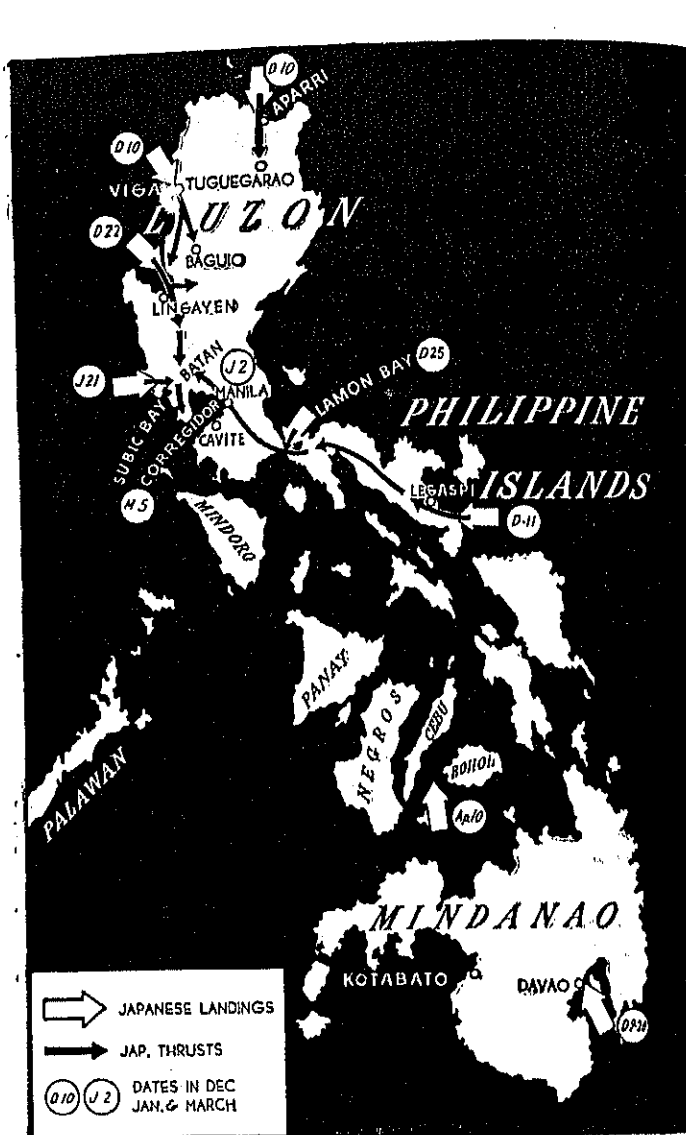
*Third stage (Jan. 11-31).* Balikpapan, Borneo's oil centre, Kendari in Celebes and naval base Amboina in the Moluccas occupied. Americans play havoc with Japanese transport fleet in Macassar Straits. Invasion of New Guinea (Lae), New Britain (Rabaul), New Ireland and the Solomons.

*Fourth stage (Feb. 1-24).* Fall of Singapore on Feb. 15; resistance in the Philippines reduced to battle on Batan peninsula. Invasion of Sumatra (Palembang, 55 per cent of Dutch East Indian oil), Bali and Timor. Retreat in Burma.

*Fifth stage (Feb. 25 to 15 March).* Invasion of Java on three points. Batavia falls on 7 March; resistance ceases about 15 March. Allied fleet destroyed in Battle of the Java Sea.

*Sixth stage (15 March to 31 May).* Resistance ends in Burma and the Philippines. American naval victory in the Coral Sea.

*Seventh stage (June to September).* Monsoon conditions prevent action on the Indian front. Japanese fail to reach Port Moresby in New Guinea, their landing in Milne Bay repulsed. In August, Americans reoccupy Guadalcanar and Tulagi in the Solomons.



49. THE CAMPAIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES

#### 49. THE CAMPAIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES

THE Philippines form a group of over 7,000 islands and islets, the largest being Luzon and Mindanao. The population numbers about 15 million. The islands are rich in minerals, including gold and coal, and there are unexploited oil deposits. The main products are Manila hemp, copra, coconut oil, sugar, tobacco, rice and rubber (in the early stages of cultivation). The United States took, before the war, 75 per cent of the exports and 60 per cent of the imports, with Japan and Great Britain sharing the rest. After the war with Spain the Philippines passed to the United States in 1899. In 1934 the islands were promised independence in 1946, but in view of the political situation, the date was postponed to 1960.

On 10 December, three days after the blow at Pearl Harbour, Japan landed armies on the northern island of Luzon and at Davao in Mindanao, where the invaders were helped by a well-organized fifth column of Japanese settlers. Without hope of reinforcements, American and Filipino troops fought a magnificent defensive action, at the beginning under General MacArthur. In Luzon the Japanese landed at Vigan and Aparri in the north and at Legaspi in the east on 10 and 11 December. Additional landings took place in Lingayen (W.) and Lamon Bay E.), not far from Manila, on 22 and 25 December. Realizing that Manila could not be held, the Americans withdrew to the Batan peninsula after destroying the naval base at Cavite (2 January). The bulk of the U. S. troops evaded the Japanese pincers and fought a battle on Batan which lasted, in spite of renewed enemy landings in Subic Bay (21 January), till 10 April, when the remnants withdrew to the island of Corregidor and some other small fortified islands in the mouth of Manila Bay. Short of food, equipment and ammunition, they held out till May, when capitulation became unavoidable.

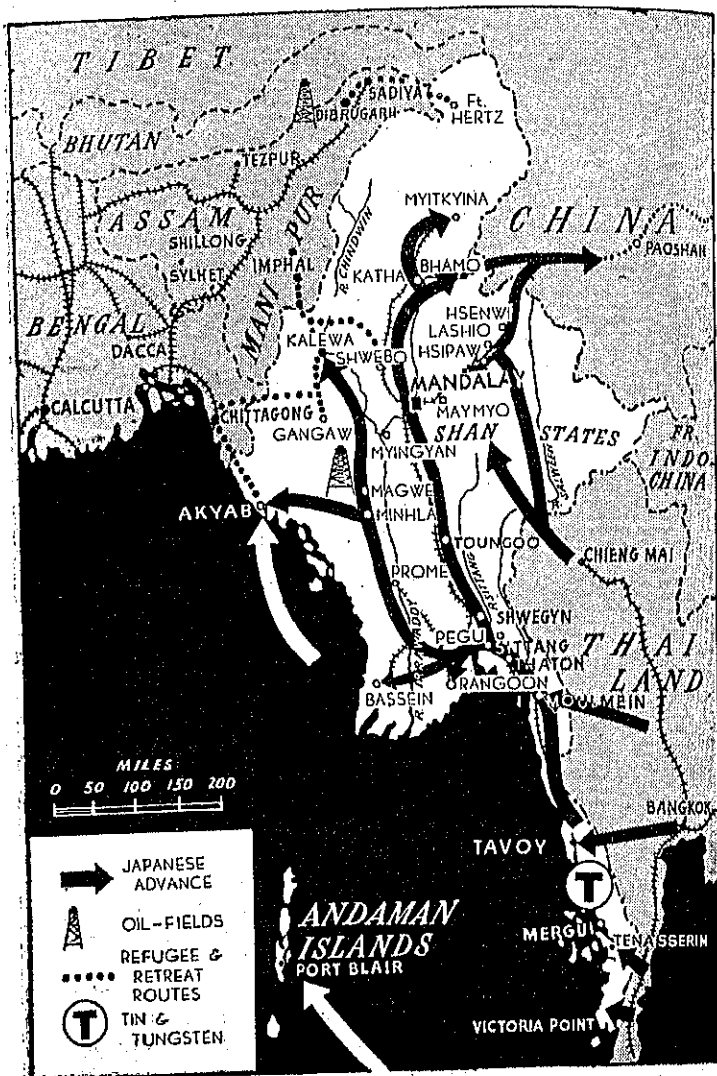
Resistance in the remaining islands was sporadic and more of the guerrilla type. Cebu was invaded in April, other islands as late as May. The American navy had lost its base in the west Pacific and Japan had gained an important jumping-off point. The ruthless incorporation of the Philippines in the Japanese political and economic systems began immediately after occupation.



## 50. THE CAMPAIGN IN MALAYA

BRITISH Malaya is divided into the Straits Settlements (Penang, Singapore, Malacca and Province Wellesley), the Federated Malay States (Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang) and the Unfederated Malay States (Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Trengganu). The population is about 5 million. The naval base and town of Singapore are situated on a 26-mile wide island at the southern tip of the peninsula.

Malaya is amongst the world's largest producers of tin and rubber (38 per cent of the world's tin and 43 per cent of the world's rubber). Its natural wealth, together with the strategical importance of Singapore, Britain's largest naval base in the East, made Malaya one of the main targets of Japanese aggression. Britain's commitments in Europe and the Middle East prevented timely preparations and reinforcements. The Japanese were well prepared for jungle warfare and drew support from an organized fifth column. A double attack by sea and land was made on 8 December—at Kota Bharu and from Singora in Thailand into Perlis. The aerodrome at Kota Bharu was soon lost, giving the Japanese an important base for their fighters. They pushed down the railway line into Kelantan and along the beaches of Trengganu. Additional landings were made in Kuantan on the east coast. The *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse*, sent to intercept Japanese landings, were sunk by torpedo-bombers. On the west coast the Japanese followed the main roads and the railway, and made comparatively rapid progress by the use of novel infiltration methods. On 20 December Penang fell, and on 29 December Ipoh, the centre of the tin industry. The Japanese now began a continuous series of landings along the west coast, always in the rear of the British lines, and so forced the pace of retreat (see map). Towards the end of January, a three-pronged assault from Batu Pahat, Kluang and Mersing threw the British and Australian army across the causeway into the island of Singapore. After interruption of the island's water-supply Singapore surrendered on 15 February with 15,000 British, 13,000 Australian and 32,000 Indian troops.



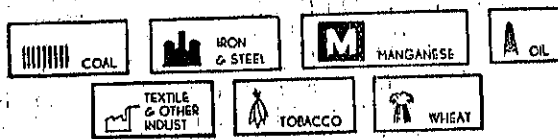
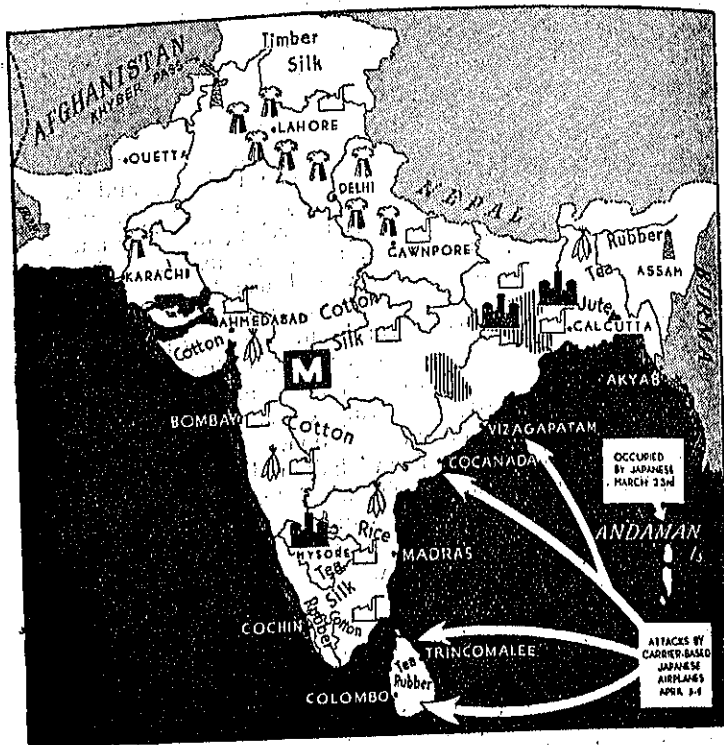
51. THE CAMPAIGN IN BURMA

## 51. THE CAMPAIGN IN BURMA

BURMA is the western end of Japan's proposed 'Co-prosperity Sphere'. The land is largely mountainous and its population lives mainly in the river valleys of the Irrawaddy and the Sittang, along the western coastal plain and in Tenasserim. The country has over 15 million inhabitants (including a million Indians) and is extremely rich in oil (total output 266 million gallons in 1936), in tin and tungsten (Tenasserim), in silver and lead (Shan States), in rice and teak. Almost more important than its natural riches was Burma's strategical importance as the only supply route into China. From Rangoon, the railway runs via Mandalay up to Lashio, from where the Burma Road leads into Yunnan.

The Japanese occupied Victoria Point in south Tenasserim in December, 1941. During Christmas they made a few vicious air attacks on Rangoon. In mid-January they invaded south Burma from Thailand in the directions of Mergui, Tavoy and Moulmein, which fell on 30 January. They were held up at Martaban (opposite Moulmein) on the Salween, but overcame resistance and pushed north into the Sittang valley where fighting started for Pegu. On 7 March, 1942, Rangoon was evacuated.

The campaign developed into a stubborn rearguard action along three main lines. (1) The Irrawaddy and Chindwin, held mainly by British and Indian troops under General Alexander, (2) the Sittang valley and (3) the Salween front in the Shan States held by Chinese troops under General Stilwell. On this front the Japanese made rapid progress and reached the railway at Hsipaw and New Lashio (29 April), followed up the Burma Road towards the Chinese frontier and entered Yunnan in May, where they were stopped before reaching Paoshan. The Japanese also advanced SW. and took Mandalay, which was evacuated on 1 May after almost total destruction from the air. General Alexander succeeded in extricating four-fifths of his army over primitive mountain tracks into Manipur and Assam. The oil-fields of Yenangyaung had been abandoned after total destruction on 20 April. By the end of May the evacuation of Burma, complicated by a stream of thousands of civilian refugees, was accomplished.



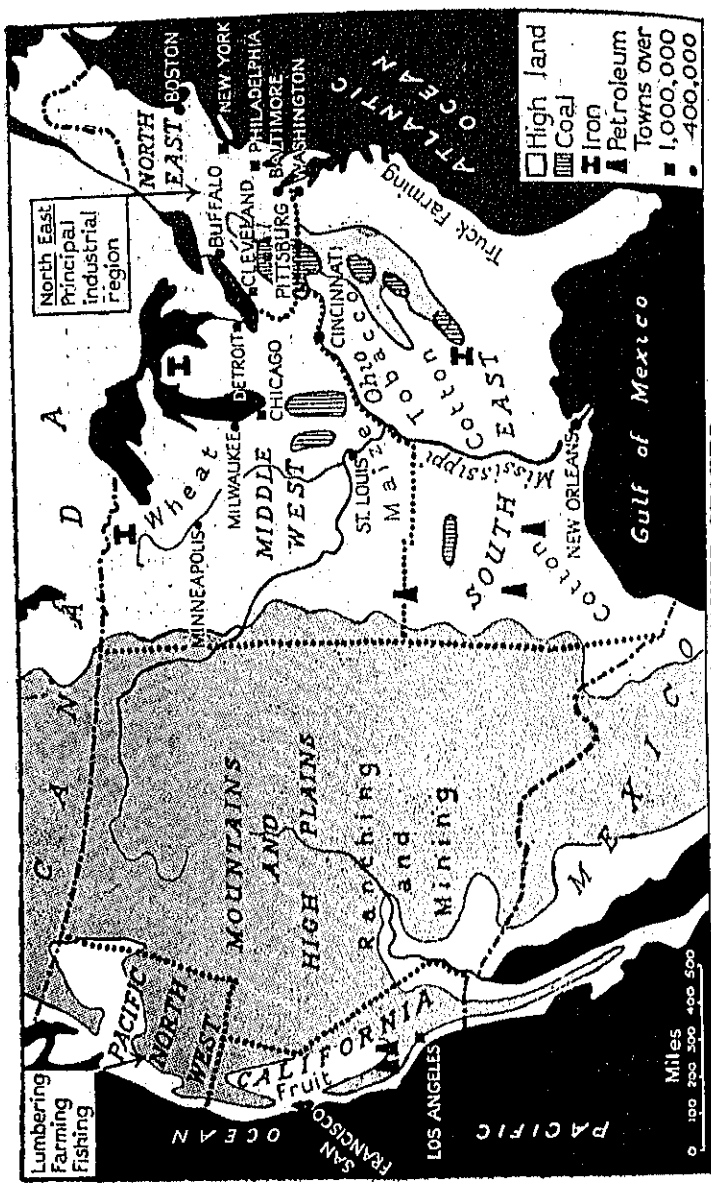
## 52. THE RESOURCES OF INDIA

## 52. THE RESOURCES OF INDIA

INDIA is one of the most important supply bases for the allied armies fighting in the Middle and Far East. Rich in certain raw materials and of considerable industrial capacity, India can feed, clothe and partly arm large armies, besides raising her own armies at a rate of over 50,000 men a month. The steel industry, second largest in the Empire, based on the coal and iron deposits of Bihar, Orissa and Bengal, is the backbone of India's war effort. Next in importance ranks the textile industry, which controlled almost 10 million spindles in 1941. Other important materials include manganese, mica, cement, jute, silk, copra and, amongst foodstuffs, rice, wheat, and tea. The Indian rubber-growing industry is being speedily expanded to make up part of the deficit caused by the loss of Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. Indian oil-production is only of local importance.

Indian armies have been fighting on almost every front, foremost in Libya, Italian East Africa, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Malaya and Burma. The loss of Burma and the German advance in south Russia throws India's strategical importance into relief.

The occupation of the Andaman Islands by Japanese forces in March, 1942, and the bombing of Colombo, Trincomalee (Ceylon's naval base) and two Indian east-coast towns in April, brought the war to India's soil. In August, 1942, land and air activity was reported from the Assam-Burma border.



53. THE UNITED STATES

THE United States, which has an area of nearly 3,000,000 square miles, may be divided into a number of regions of varying economic importance, which are shown on the map.

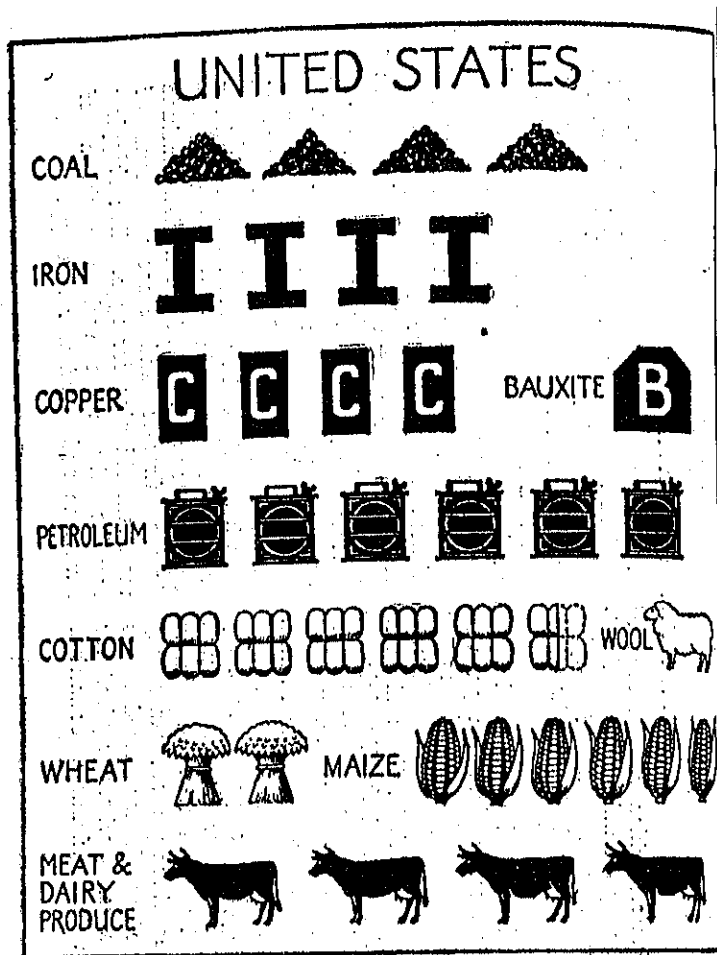
The national income, i.e. the total value of goods and services, which, in 1939, was estimated at 70 billion dollars (say, \$15,000 million), is equal to that of continental Europe, excluding the U.S.S.R., and twice that of Great Britain and the Dominions.

The output of a factory worker in the United States is double that of one in Britain, and three times as much as one in France. Moreover, an American farmer produces enough food to feed eleven people, for every eight fed by a British or German farmer, and three by a Polish farmer. Again, in the United States, three persons can supply the needs of one man in the armed forces compared with seven workers required for this purpose in less advanced countries.

These facts make it evident that in the United States a greater proportion of people can be spared for the production of war material than in Britain or continental Europe.

The Lease-and-Lend Act (11 March, 1941) made available for Britain such supplies of war materials and essential commodities as were not required for the defence of the United States. After Pearl Harbour the resources of all the United Nations were to be marshalled under a common plan.

American industries were switched over to armament production and achieved amazing results during the first eight months of 1942. Expenditure rose to \$4,500,000,000 per month in July and August and the total for the recent year is now estimated at \$78,000,000,000. Production plans include 60,000 aircraft and 8,000,000 tons of merchant shipping for 1942. But shipping remains the most serious problem of American and allied war strategy.



54. THE RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES  
 Each symbol represents 10 per cent of world production

#### 54. THE RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES

VAST natural resources, coupled with a productive capacity unequalled by any other nation, except Canada, have made the United States the leading industrial country in the world. She is self-sufficient in, and an exporter of, most essential foodstuffs. Of strategical materials the United States mines from 35 to 45 per cent of the world's coal, 40 per cent of the iron ore, 40 per cent of the copper, and 10 per cent of the bauxite. She produces 60 per cent of the petroleum, generates about 30 per cent of the electricity, and manufactures nearly 50 per cent of the steel. She also supplies more than 50 per cent of the cotton.

On the other hand the United States lacks rubber, most of which was imported from British Malaya; tin, which was imported from British Malaya and Bolivia; and steel-hardening metals, such as chrome, manganese, tungsten, and nickel which she imports from Canada. The loss of Malayan rubber is being made up partly by increased production of wild rubber in Brazil and by the manufacture of synthetic rubber from oil by-products.

The United States imports tropical foodstuffs, such as cane-sugar and coffee, from tropical Latin America, and from countries in the British Empire, which supply tea (India and Ceylon), and cocoa (Gold Coast).

As about half the strategical raw materials required by the United States are imported from Canada and other parts of the British Empire, it is obvious that the defence of that Empire is closely bound up with the defence of the United States itself.



55. ATLANTIC DEFENCES OF THE UNITED STATES

## 55. ATLANTIC DEFENCES OF THE UNITED STATES

In September, 1940, negotiations were concluded by which the United States acquired from Britain the right to lease eight new naval and air bases. Those in Newfoundland and Bermuda were given by Britain, and those in the Bahamas, Jamaica, St Lucia, Trinidad, Antigua and British Guiana were transferred to the United States in exchange for 50 overage destroyers.

As will be seen by the map, these bases, together with the existing ones belonging to the United States, Britain and Canada, form a crescent of defence stretching from Newfoundland, through Bermuda and the West Indies, to British Guiana.

Newfoundland stands sentinel over the northern approach to Canada and the United States. Bermuda, the principal defensive pivot of the eastern seaboard, is only a few hours' flight from Halifax, Nova Scotia, New York, and other coastal cities. The West Indian bases leased by Britain, with Key West in the Florida Channel, Guantánamo in Cuba, and bases in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, will help to guard the sea lanes leading to the Panama Canal, which is of vital strategic importance to the United States, for it allows her fleet to operate in the Pacific as well as in the Atlantic Ocean.

In April, 1941, the United States was granted the right to establish naval and air bases in the Danish island of Greenland, which it took under its protection for the duration of the war. In the following July, U.S. naval forces landed in Iceland to supplement and eventually to replace the British forces, who had been responsible for the defence of the island since May, 1940. After America's entry into the world war, the German navy concentrated its U-boats along the eastern seaboard of the U.S.A. and did cruel execution among supply ships and tankers (see No. 64). Later, U-boats operated in the Caribbean Sea and round Newfoundland, and till July, 1942, shipping losses exceeded combined allied building.

The participation of several South American republics in the war (see No. 57) will facilitate the problem of the Atlantic defences of the Americas.

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As will be seen by the map, these bases, together with the existing ones belonging to the United States, Britain and Canada, form a crescent of defence stretching from Newfoundland, through Bermuda and the West Indies, to British Guiana.

Newfoundland stands sentinel over the northern approach to Canada and the United States. Bermuda, the principal defensive pivot of the eastern seaboard, is only a few hours' flight from Halifax, Nova Scotia, New York, and other coastal cities. The West Indian bases leased by Britain, with Key West in the Florida Channel, Guantánamo in Cuba, and bases in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, will help to guard the sea lanes leading to the Panama Canal, which is of vital strategic importance to the United States, for it allows her fleet to operate in the Pacific as well as in the Atlantic Ocean.

In April, 1941, the United States was granted the right to establish naval and air bases in the Danish island of Greenland, which it took under its protection for the duration of the war. In the following July, U.S. naval forces landed in Iceland to supplement and eventually to replace the British forces, who had been responsible for the defence of the island since May, 1940. After America's entry into the world war, the German navy concentrated its U-boats along the eastern seaboard of the U.S.A. and did cruel execution among supply ships and tankers (see No. 64). Later, U-boats operated in the Caribbean Sea and round Newfoundland, and till July, 1942, shipping losses exceeded combined allied building.

The participation of several South American republics in the war (see No. 57) will facilitate the problem of the Atlantic defences of the Americas.

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## 56. CANADA'S WAR EFFORT

THOUGH Canada (3½ million square miles) is the largest single unit in the British Empire, she has a population of only 11,300,000. Yet the Dominion is so rich in natural resources, and in the energy of her people, that she exercises an importance out of all proportion to the number of her inhabitants.

The Canadian army numbers a quarter of a million plus a reserve for home defence of 173,000. Of the 50,000 men in the Royal Canadian Air Force the majority are employed in the *Empire Air Training Scheme*, which turns out 10,000 pilots and 20,000 gunners and observers each year. Sixty per cent of the men under training are Canadians; the remainder come from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. In addition 22,000 persons are engaged in aircraft production.

Since August, 1940, Canada and the United States have had a *Joint Defence*

*Board* to co-ordinate the defence of the western hemisphere, and to aid Britain, the outpost of that hemisphere, against German aggression. The Board have arranged (1) for a chain of strategic air bases to be constructed from the frontier of the United States across Canada to Alaska via (i) Vancouver, and (ii) Edmonton to Fort St John, and then across Yukon (see map); (2) the joint defence of eastern Canada, whose north-eastern approaches are dominated by Newfoundland, where the United States has acquired the right to construct a naval and air base on the peninsula of Avalon; (3) for the pooling of naval shipyard facilities; and (4) for the deepening of the St Lawrence between Lake Ontario and Montreal (see map), so as to provide a 27-foot channel from Lake Superior to the Atlantic. This project is also designed to furnish power.



57. LATIN AMERICA

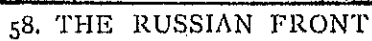
## 57. LATIN AMERICA

WITH the exception of British Honduras, the Guianas, the Falkland Islands, and certain islands in the West Indies belonging to Britain, France and Holland, Latin America consists of a number of republics of which the chief are Mexico, and the A.B.C. states—Argentina, Brazil and Chile. These republics have been able to preserve their independence through the operation of the Monroe Doctrine (1823). Until recently pan-American co-operation aimed at keeping internal peace in the Americas. Now it is concerned with the preservation of the western hemisphere from outside attack. The Latin American republics are primary producing lands, and their defence against a powerful aggressor rests chiefly on the United States, which alone possesses the necessary economic and industrial resources. A crescent of naval and air bases around the Caribbean Sea guards the approaches to the Panama Canal, but south of Georgetown (British Guiana) the only naval base is in the Falkland Islands.

More dangerous than immediate attack is German and Italian infiltration. There are in many of the republics large colonies of Germans, who have preserved their own culture and who hold Nazi ideas. They have considerable commercial influence. In 1939 out of 45,000 miles of air lines, 20,000 were controlled by German and Italian companies.

Latin America contains practically all important minerals and ores, including oil, coal, copper, iron, phosphates, tin, etc. in rich quantities. Brazil is taking steps to rehabilitate her collapsed rubber industry to offset the loss of Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. Agricultural products include grain, meat and coffee.

In January, 1942, the following republics broke off relations with the Axis: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela; the following declared war: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatamala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Salvador, Mexico (May) and Brazil (August), the latter after many sinkings of her ships by U-boats. Argentina and Chile remained neutral. The U.S.A. is building a naval base on the Galapagos Islands (see map 45).



## 58. THE RUSSIAN FRONT

## 58. THE RUSSIAN FRONT

*December 1941 to September 1942*

ON 10 December the last German offensive of 1941 was broken and the enemy was in retreat on all fronts.

1. *Northern front.* Tikhvin was recaptured and the Germans pushed back to the Volkhov river.

2. *Central front.* Between Lake Ilmen and Orel the Russians made their biggest advances, in some sectors up to 300 miles. They came dangerously near to Smolensk. Holding Rzhev and Vyazma, the Germans retained a bulge pointing towards Moscow.

3. *Southern front.* From Orel to south of Kharkov the Germans withdrew to the main railway. Further south Russian gains were considerable.

The Arctic front improved as well.

In April and May, Soviet armies attacked north and south of Kharkov to forestall the expected German summer offensive. In May the Germans counter-attacked and crossed the Donetz.

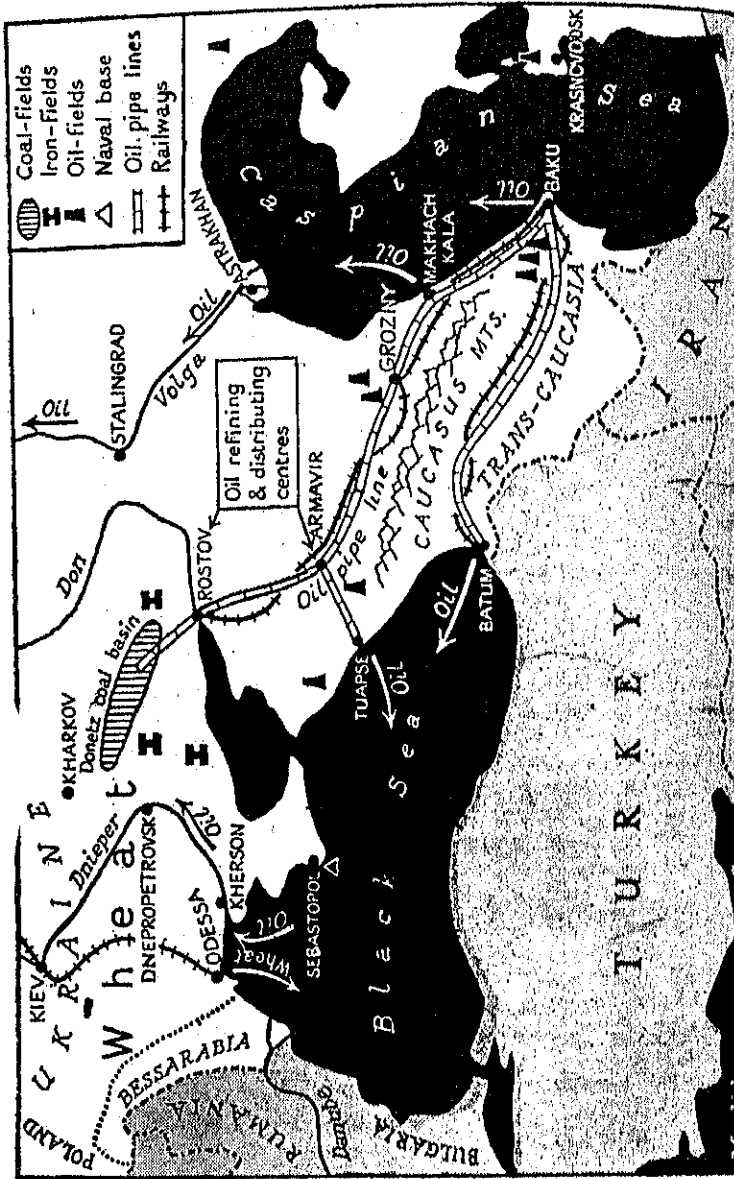
On 8 June began a concentrated attack on Sebastopol which fell on 1 July.

The central and northern fronts remained more or less stationary throughout the summer.

On 22 June the Germans started their big drive in the Ukraine, SE. of Kharkov and a few days later from Kursk. In the first week of July they advanced on a 160-mile front in three columns to the Don. By 7 July the battle for Voronej was joined and the Don crossed. After the capture of Rosoch on the Rostov railway, Millerovo and Kamenskaya (16-19 July), the German offensive developed in two directions.

1. *The Don elbow and Stalingrad battle.* Racing across the defenceless steppes inside the Don bend the Germans prepared to attack Stalingrad from three sides. By the end of August they stood at the gates of Stalingrad.

2. *The Caucasus battle.* After Rostov had been captured on 28 July, German columns moved SW. to Krasnodar (20 August) from where they threatened Novorossisk. Another drive captured the oil-field of Maikop and threatened the port Tuapse. The main drive for the oil-fields of Grozny was stopped dead at the Terek river near Mozdok.

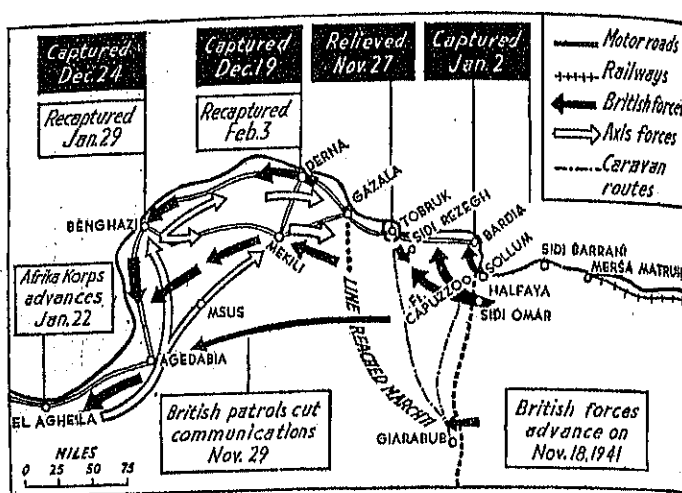


Of Russia's 170,000,000 inhabitants some 40,000,000 live in the Ukraine, the principal agricultural and industrial area in the Soviet Union. In normal times the Ukraine supplies 20 per cent of Russia's wheat, as well as vast quantities of barley, oats, rye and sugar-beet. In the heart of this region lies the Donetz Basin, which produces 60 per cent of the coal, 60 per cent of the iron ore, 50 per cent of the steel, and 70 per cent of the aluminium manufactured in the U.S.S.R. Important industrial centres are Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, Kharkov, Stalingrad, Dnepropetrovsk, and Odessa, the chief port.

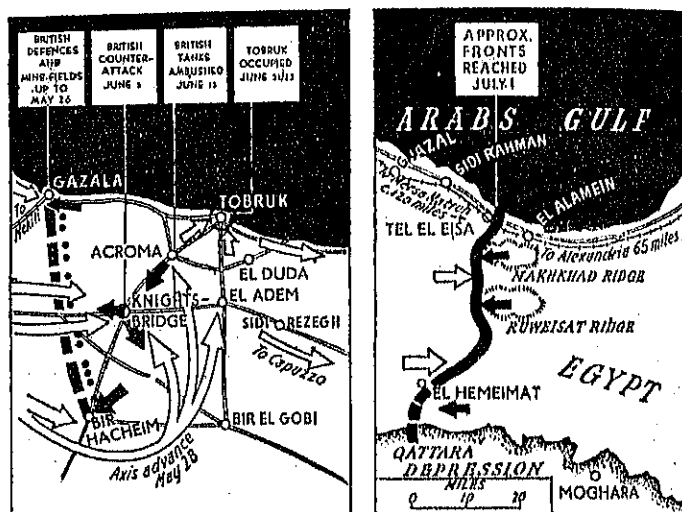
Formerly industrial plants in the central Ukraine were supplied with power from the huge power station at Zaporozje (south of Dnepropetrovsk), where a gigantic dam, crossed by roads and railways, had been built to harness the waters of the Dnieper. But in August, 1941, when the Germans were approaching it, the Russians blew up the dam (1) to render useless to the invaders the industrial plants dependent on it, and (2) to prevent them crossing the Dnieper at this spot.

Russia accounts for 10 per cent of the world's oil. No less than 75 per cent of her output comes from the Baku wells, whence it is piped to Batum, on the Black Sea. From Grozny, oil is piped to the refining centre of Armavir, and thence to (1) Tuapse, on the Black Sea, and (2) through Rostov-on-Don, to Trudovaya in the Donetz Basin. Oil is transported into the heart of Russia (1) up the Volga and then by other waterways to Leningrad, and (2) via the Black Sea to Kherson, on the Dnieper, and by river and canal as far as Brest-Litovsk, on the Bug. Before the invasion of Russia, oil was sent to Germany either by inland waterways or by rail. Apart from oil there are in the Caucasus region deposits of coal, iron, nickel and manganese.

The loss of the Ukraine and parts of the Caucasus necessitated a rapid expansion of Russia's central and eastern industrial regions and oil-fields, partly with the help of evacuated machinery and workers. Therefore, the pre-war percentage figures given do not represent conditions by the end of August, 1942.



60. DING-DONG BATTLE IN LIBYA



61. THE AXIS BID FOR EGYPT

#### 60. DING-DONG BATTLE IN LIBYA

For seven months quiet reigned on the Libyan front. The opposing armies were sitting behind fortified lines on the Egyptian border. The garrison of Tobruk withstood one of the most heroic sieges of the war. On 14 November, 1941, the eighth British army advanced on a wide front from Sollum to Giarabub; the main force drove around Sidi Omar and cut through in the direction of Sidi Rezegh and the coast. The object was to link up with the Tobruk garrison and to encircle and destroy the German *Panzer* forces under General Rommel. The link with Tobruk was established on 26 November, but broken again when Rommel succeeded in extricating considerable forces westwards. He withdrew to El Agheila followed by British forces, who captured 19,000 Italian and 7,000 German prisoners. Bardia, Sollum and Halfaya, left invested in the rear, were captured in January. By 22 January Rommel had received enough reinforcements to counter-attack and drive the eighth army back to a line running south from Gazala to Bir Hacheim, where both sides were digging in by 11 March.

#### 61. THE AXIS BID FOR EGYPT

DURING the following months Axis forces received heavy reinforcements in armour, and attacked again on 26 May. A large tank force moved round Bir Hacheim and thrust towards Tobruk. The eighth army counter-attacked, but could not prevent the Axis forces from cutting two gaps through the minefields in the west. On 10 June, Bir Hacheim, defended by Fighting French forces, fell, and only then could Rommel bring the full forces of his *Panzers* to bear. British tanks counter-attacking from Acroma on 13 June fell into an anti-tank-gun ambush. The loss of armour forced the eighth army to retreat; Tobruk was captured on 20 June with over 20,000 prisoners. On 24 June the Axis pierced the frontier line, reached Mersa Matruh on 26 June and El Alamein, 65 miles from Alexandria, on 1 July. Here, in the bottleneck between the impassable Qattara Depression and the sea, General Auchinleck stopped the Axis advance. In July fighting took place for some important ridges. The Axis attacked again near El Hemeimat on 31 August but was beaten back.

	BATTLESHIPS & BATTLE CRUISERS	CRUISERS	AIRCRAFT- CARRIERS	DESTROYERS	SUBMARINES
BRITAIN	14 +9B.	58 +19B.	6 +6B.	173 +43B.	58 +18B.
FRANCE	7 +7B.	19 +18B.	2 +1B.	60 +60B.	80 +77B.
U.S.S.R.	3 +1B.	5	2B.	28	150 +72B.
U. S. A.	15 +8B.	37 +6B.	5 +2B.	220 +30B.	94 +20B.
GERMANY	5 +4B.	10 +4B.	2B.	54 +8B.	71 +28B.
ITALY	6 +2B.	22 +12B.		71 +8B.	108 +26B.
JAPAN	9 +4B.	39 +?B.	6 +2B.	118 +?B.	64 +?B.

B. = Ships being built in 1939.

## 62. NAVAL STRENGTH

THE diagram shows the comparative strength, in September, 1939, of the British, French, the U.S.S.R., the United States, and the Axis navies. At the outbreak of war Britain possessed the strongest fleet in the world, and the French navy, though smaller than the British, contained some magnificent vessels. Of the Axis countries, the Japanese navy was the most powerful, but both the Italian navy, and the German, built since 1929, included formidable battleships. The Soviet fleet consisted mainly of overage vessels, but since 1939 it has been reconstructed and strengthened.

The German fleet is based in home and 'occupied' territorial waters; the Italian fleet in the Mediterranean. The Royal Navy, assisted by the dominion navies, must not only protect convoys, blockade enemy ports, and attack enemy ships in the Atlantic

and the Mediterranean, but must patrol and fight in all parts of the world.

The naval power of the U.S.A. was badly injured by Japan's treacherous attack on Pearl Harbour. Before her entry into the war America was already spending enormous sums on a 'two-ocean' fleet. The American navy has conducted combined air-sea operations with conspicuous success in many Pacific battles, and the new building programme favours aircraft-carriers instead of battleships.

Japan's navy, always an unknown factor, achieved quick successes at the beginning of her aggression, thanks to numerous bases in the western Pacific which facilitated operations. She seems to have a large number of aircraft-carriers, including converted liners.

1	ALLIED & U.S.A. MERCHANT SHIPPING 1939 *												ADDITIONAL TONNAGE 1914
UNITED KINGDOM													
DOMINIONS													
NORWAY													
HOLLAND													
U.S. A. (Ocean tonnage)													
ADDITIONAL ALLIED SHIPPING 1914/15													
FRANCE (F)													
ITALY (I)													
JAPAN													EACH SHIP REPRESENTS 1,000,000 GROSS TONS.
2	SUNK 1 SEPTEMBER 1939 TO 30 JUNE 1941												
													BRITISH
													ALLIED
													NEUTRAL
													EACH SHIP REPRESENTS 1,000,000 GROSS TONS.

62. MERCHANT SHIPPING AND THE WAR

62. MERCHANT SHIPPING AND THE WAR

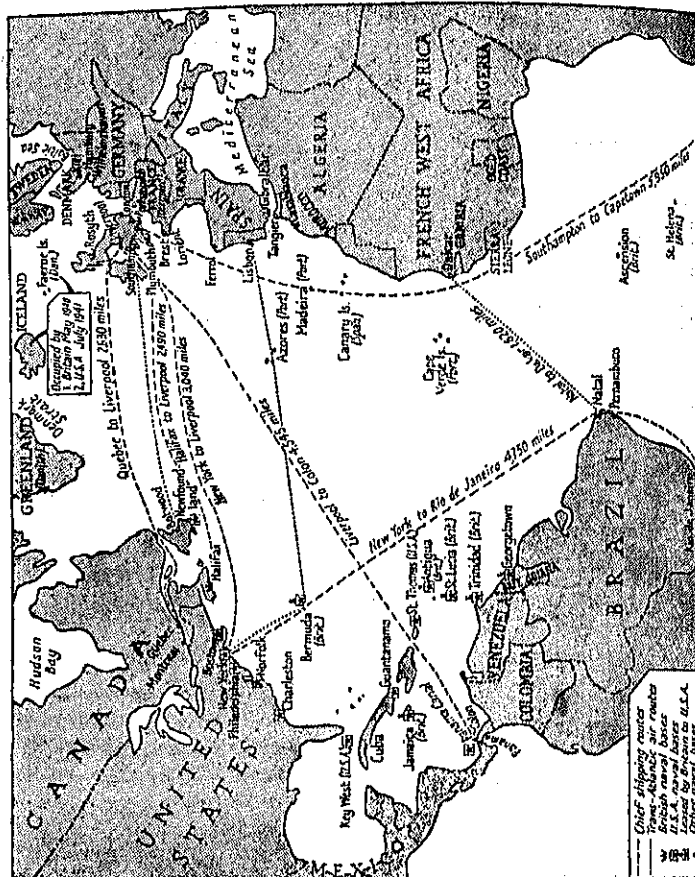
FIGURE 1 shows the gross shipping tonnage possessed by the principal mercantile powers (excluding Germany—4,482,000 tons) in 1914. In the first Great War the whole of this shipping—roughly 70,000,000 tons—was at the disposal of the Allied and Associated Powers. In 1939 the amount of British, allied and neutral shipping so available (shown in the smaller oblong) was only 38,000,000 tons. Moreover this figure includes the United States, whose ships were prohibited by the Neutrality Act from entering belligerent waters. It does not, however, include France (3,000,000 tons in 1939), whose merchant vessels, since her capitulation in June, 1940, have been at the disposal of Germany rather than Britain.

Figure 2 shows the amount of British, allied and neutral shipping sunk (7,000,000 gross tons)\* between 1 September, 1939, and 30 June, 1941.† These losses include: (1) those caused by direct attacks on merchant shipping by U-boats, commerce raiders and

aircraft, i.e. periodic losses which may be expected to continue; and (2) those incidental to naval operations, such as the evacuation of Dunkirk, Greece and Crete, which may be termed non-recurring losses.

With the entry of America into the war shipping losses attained enormous proportions and till July, 1942, outstripped the combined shipbuilding programmes of the United States, Canada and Britain. In August allied shipbuilding overtook sinkings. The United States aimed at a total of 8,000,000 tons of new shipping by the end of 1942 and were producing an average of three ships a day in September, 1942. This tonnage, combined with the output of British and Canadian yards (1,000,000 in 1942), will ensure enough shipping to supply a 'second front'. To offset it Hitler would have to sink over 500,000 tons a month, compared with the monthly average of 324,000 tons sunk during the first twenty-one months of the war.

\* Includes French shipping up to June, 1940. † No figures issued at regular intervals after 30 June, 1941.



#### 64. THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

THE Battle of the Atlantic is being waged with increasing intensity. On the one hand are the British, Canadian and, since December, 1941, the U.S. navies and air forces whose duty it is to protect convoys from Canada and America to the British Isles and the African theatre of war: on the other are German U-boats, surface raiders and aircraft, whose aim is to prevent them from reaching their destination.

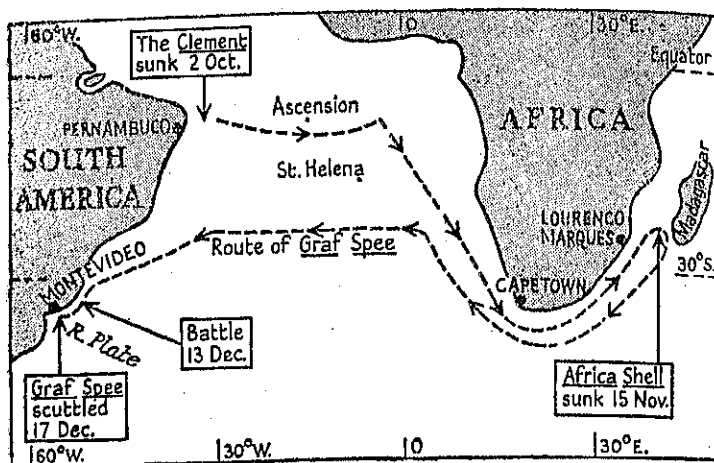
After the fall of France the larger part of the French fleet was withdrawn from the combat, thus increasing the work of the hard-strained British navy. The Atlantic coasts of Europe from Norway to the Franco-Spanish frontier are in the possession of Germany. U-boat bases on the west coast of France greatly extend their operational radius. Eire, in one of the most important and strategically dominant positions, remains neutral and closes her harbours to British ships.

The occupation of Greenland (April, 1941)

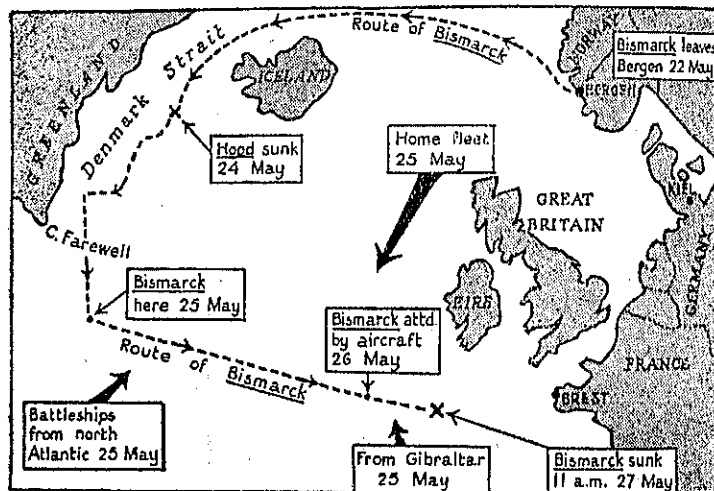
and Iceland (July, 1941) by the United States ensures that these islands are not used as naval and air bases by the enemy, and has facilitated the formation of 'shipping lanes' across the north Atlantic.

The entry of the United States into the war intensified the Battle of the Atlantic. German U-boats operating off the east coast of North America took a heavy toll of tankers and merchant shipping before adequate counter-measures could be organized. U-boats then concentrated on the eastern approach to the Panama Canal, and the North-South American trade routes crossing in the Caribbean Sea. In May and June enormous losses were suffered. U-boats also operated off Newfoundland and in the Hudson Bay. None the less large convoys bringing American armies to Northern Ireland and England arrived without losses.

With the entry of Brazil into the war, the allied position in the south Atlantic (August, 1942) is bound to improve.



65. THE BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE



66. THE END OF THE BISMARCK

## 65. THE BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE

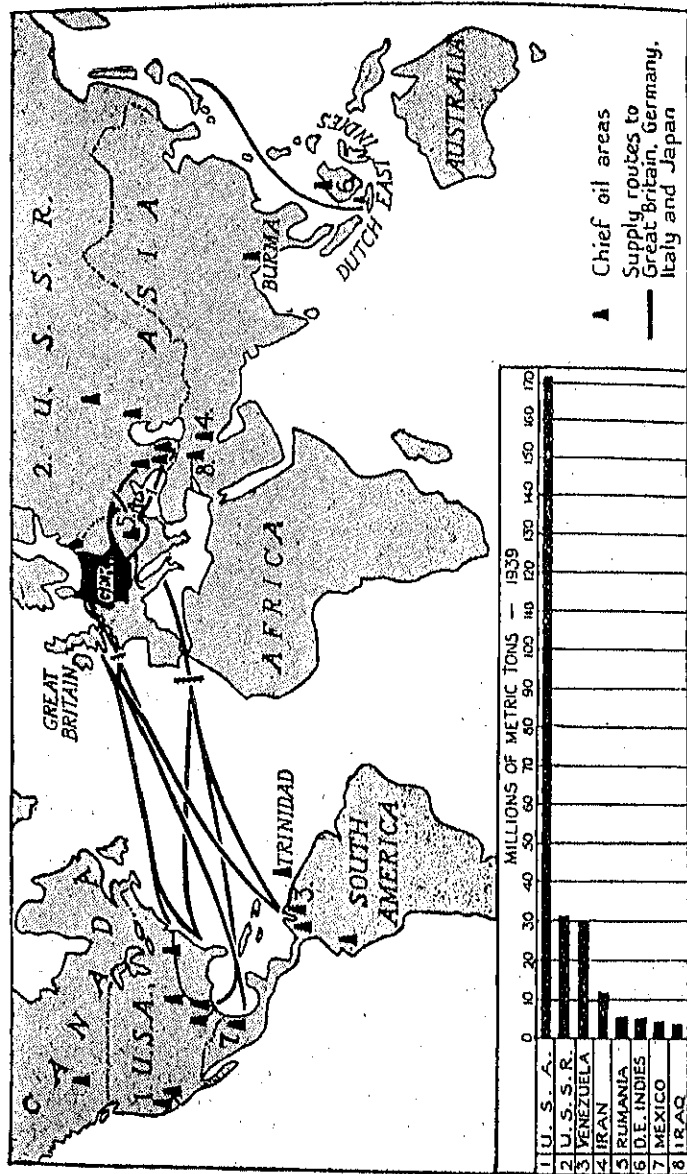
A COMMERCE raider (subsequently identified as the 10,000 ton, 11-inch gun, German 'pocket-battleship' *Admiral Graf Spee*) sank the British merchantman *Clement* off Brazil on 2 October, 1939, and another British ship, the *Africa Shell*, 180 miles NE. of Lourenco Marques on 15 November.

Early on 13 December, as the *Graf Spee* was cruising off Uruguay, she was sighted by H.M.S. *Exeter*, a 10,000 ton, 8-inch gun cruiser, who was escorting the French steamer *Formose*. The *Exeter* called to the 6-inch gun cruisers *Ajax* and *Achilles*, but before they could assist her she was damaged by the *Graf Spee* and compelled to retire. The *Ajax* and the *Achilles*, now within range of the *Graf Spee*, forced her between them and the coast, and closed in on her on either side. Though severely mauled the *Graf Spee* managed to reach Montevideo at midnight. Ordered to leave this port by 8 p.m. on 17 December, she weighed anchor at 6-30 p.m. on that day. But instead of engaging the British ships, who lay in wait for her off the estuary of the Plate, the *Graf Spee* was scuttled by her crew five miles off shore.

## 66. THE END OF THE BISMARCK

ON 22 May, 1941, air reconnaissance showed that the 35,000 ton German battleship *Bismarck*, and the cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, had left Bergen. On the night of the 23/24th the German vessels were sighted by British warships in Denmark Strait. At dawn on the 24th they were intercepted by the *Prince of Wales*, and the *Hood* who, in the engagement that followed, was blown up. Throughout the 24th the British ships remained in touch with the enemy, but the next day they lost contact with their opponents, and the *Prinz Eugen* escaped.

Meanwhile, British forces moved towards the enemy. On the 26th the *Bismarck* was sighted by Catalina scouting aircraft 500 miles west of Land's End. Later she was bombed by aircraft and compelled to reduce speed. Early on the 27th when she was 400 miles west of Brest, the *Bismarck* was attacked by destroyers. Soon after she was engaged by battleships, and at 11-01 was sunk by torpedoes fired by H.M.S. *Dorsetshire*.



67. OIL SUPPLIES

## 67. OIL SUPPLIES

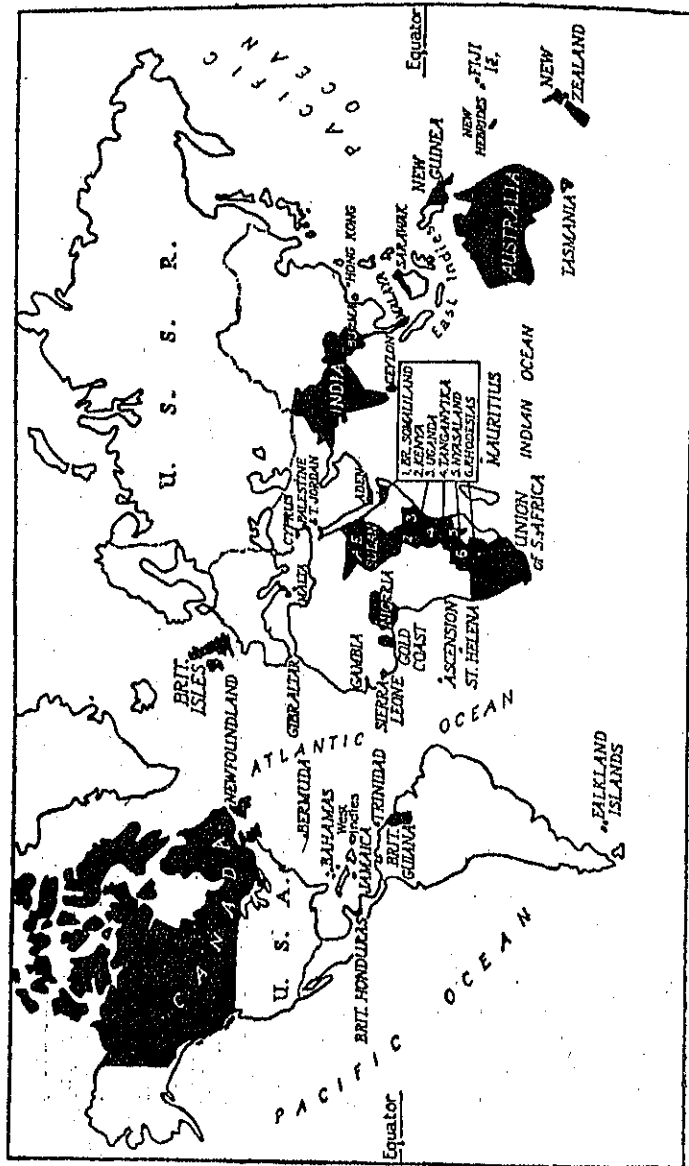
Britain imports most of her oil from Venezuela, the United States and Iran. Iraq and Iran are the chief sources of supply for British forces in the Middle East. Ocean-going tankers have a capacity of from 10,000 to 18,000 tons, and in 1940 Britain had at her disposal a tanker fleet of 5,800,000 gross tonnage, an amount insufficient for her needs, even allowing for the fact that each vessel makes several voyages a year.

Owing to the British blockade Germany and Italy are unfavourably placed as regards oil. At the outbreak of war Germany had enormous reserves, subsequently increased by the seizure of stocks in occupied countries. But these supplies must now be running short, and her annual war requirements are about 20,000,000 tons. In 1937, Germany consumed 7,500,000 tons of oil, of which one-third was obtained from coal, and the balance imported mainly from the United States, Rumania, and the Dutch East Indies. In 1939 Rumania produced 6,500,000 tons of oil. The oil is conveyed

to Germany either by Danube tank barges or by rail. But it is doubtful if more than 1,500,000 tons can be transported annually by the Danube, and 600,000 tons by rail. Even if Hitler were able to seize the Caucasian oil wells, he would be fortunate if he could obtain from this region more than 1,000,000 tons a year.

In 1939 Italy imported approximately 65 per cent of her oil from the United States, Venezuela, Colombia and the Dutch East Indies, and some 20 per cent from Rumania, the last named being the only one of these sources now open to her.

Japan used to import the greater part of her oil from the United States and the Dutch Indies. Her requirements were estimated at 7,500,000 tons a year in 1940, of which she produced only 380,000 tons. The conquest of the Far East gave her control over the rich oil-fields in Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Burma (totalling 9,000,000 tons a year), but timely destruction prevented immediate exploitation.



68. THE BRITISH EMPIRE

## 68. THE BRITISH EMPIRE

'The British Empire may be said to comprise all those territories for whose government the member-states of the British Commonwealth of Nations are responsible.' It covers 13,335,000 square miles, or more than one-fifth of the land surface of the globe, and contains 495 million people, or one-fourth of the human race. Exploration and conquest have played their part in building up the Overseas Empire, which includes the Dominions, equal partners with Britain in the Commonwealth, and the Colonial Empire, whose population is somewhat greater than that of the French Colonial Empire, next in size to that of Britain.

The British Empire consists of:

1. Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
2. The Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, and Eire, only associated with the Commonwealth for external purposes. Up to 1933, Newfoundland was regarded as a dominion,

but, since that date, owing to mismanagement, her dominion status has been suspended.

3. India, which, by the passing of the India Act in 1935, attained a large measure of self-government. By this Bill, Burma was separated from India and became an independent state within the Commonwealth.

4. The Crown Colonies and Protectorates, which are controlled by the Imperial Government acting through the Colonial Office. Some of the colonies, such as Southern Rhodesia, are virtually self-governing; others are governed almost entirely through the Colonial Office.

At the outbreak of war the whole of the Empire, with one exception, sprang to arms. That exception was Eire, which continues to maintain relations with Germany and Italy, with whom the rest of the Commonwealth is engaged in a life and death struggle.

## MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS

*Invasion of Poland* (1) by Germany 1 Sept., 1939, (2) by Russia 17 Sept. Russo-German Partition of Poland 29 Sept., 1939.  
*Russo-Finnish campaign* 30 October, 1939, to 13 March, 1940.  
*German invasion of Denmark and Norway* 9 April, 1940. Allied forces, sent to assist Norwegians, evacuated from Norway by 10 June.  
*Mr Churchill succeeded Mr N. Chamberlain as P. M.* 10 May.  
*German invasion of Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg* 10 May, 1940. Holland capitulated 14 May. Belgian armies surrendered 28 May. Dunkirk evacuated between 30 May and 3 June.  
*Battle of France* began on 5 June, 1940.  
*Italy declared war on Britain and France* 10 June.  
*France signed armistice with Germany* (22 June) and with Italy (24 June).  
*Battle of Britain* 8 August to 31 October, 1940.  
*Italians invaded Greece* 28 October, 1940.  
*German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece* 6 April, 1941.  
*Battle of Crete* 20 to 31 May, 1941.  
*Libya.* British conquest of Cirenaica 8 December, 1940 to 18 February. German counter-thrust 24 March to 13 April.  
*British conquest of Italian E. Africa* 19 January to 27 November, 1941.  
*Revolt in Iraq* 2 to 31 May, 1941.  
*Occupation of Syria* began 8 June. Armistice signed 13 July, 1941.  
*German invasion of U.S.S.R.* began on 22 June, 1941.  
*French Indo-China.* On 26 July, 1941, Vichy Government permitted Japan to establish naval and air bases  
*Iran.* British and Russian forces entered Iran 25 August. Hostilities ceased on 28 August, 1941.  
*Atlantic Charter.* In August, 1941, President Roosevelt and Mr Churchill met in the Atlantic and formulated the eight-point Atlantic Charter which enunciated the peace aims of Britain and the United States.  
*Libya.* Second British conquest of Cirenaica from 14 November to 17 January, 1941.  
*Moscow offensive.* Giant three-sided attack on Moscow started 10 November, beaten off 10 December, 1941. Beginning of German retreat.  
*Japan attacks in the Pacific.* 7 December, 1941, sea and air attack on Pearl Harbour. 8 December, invasion of Malaya, 10 December, Philippines. Japan at war with Britain, U.S.A. and Allied Nations.  
*U.S.A. at war with Axis.* Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.A. on 11 December, 1941.  
*Invasion of Burma* began 17 January, 1942. Rangoon evacuated 7 March. British armies withdrew to Assam by end of May, 1942.  
*Libya:* Rommel's counter-offensive from El Agheila 22 January, 1942. Gazala to Bir Hacheim line reached 11 March.  
*Singapore* capitulated on 15 February, 1942.  
*Invasion of Java* 28 February. Resistance ceased about 15 March, 1942.

*Air raids on India and Ceylon.* Japanese planes attacked Colombo, Vizagapatam, Cocanada and Trincomalee 5-9 April, 1942.

*Tokyo bombed* 18 April, 1942.

*Coral Sea Battle* May 4-9, 1942, Japanese fleet for invasion of Australia dispersed.

*Occupation of Madagascar.* Combined British operations begin 5 May.

*Battle for Egypt* 26 May, 1942. Rommel attacks from Gazala to Bir Hacheim. Tobruk taken 21 June, El Alamein line, 165 miles from Alexandria, established 1 July, 1942.

*Mexico at war with Axis* 22 May, 1942.

*Anglo-Soviet Treaty* signed 26 May, 1942.

*First 1000-bomber raid.* Cologne devastated 30 May, 1942.

*Midway Battle.* 4-9 June, 1942. Large Japanese fleet defeated by combined U.S. air and sea operations.

*German offensive in Ukraine.* Large-scale German offensive on Kharkov front launched 22 June, 1942, with Stalingrad and Caucasus as main objectives; Rostov captured 28 July, 1942.

*U.S. offensive in Solomons.* Landings on Guadalcanar, 10 August, 1942.

*Churchill-Stalin meeting.* 12-15 August, 1942, in Moscow.

*Brazil at war with Axis.* 23 August, 1942.

*Chinese counter-offensive.* Chinese armies drive back Japanese in Chekiang, recapture Chuhsien airfield 23 August, 1942.

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